

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Means-Gage House

Other names/site number: The Bluff House

Name of related multiple property listing:  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: 1207 Bay Street

City or town: Beaufort State: South Carolina County: Beaufort

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

   national    statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

   A X B X C    D

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- ☐

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Site

Structure

☐

Object

☐

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

buildings

2

\_\_\_\_\_

sites

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

structures

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

objects

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/privies

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

OTHER/Beaufort Style

EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY REVIVAL/Neoclassical Revival

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: \_\_\_ Foundation: STUCCO/BRICK; Walls:  
WOOD/weatherboard; Roof: Metal\_\_\_

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### Summary Paragraph

1207 Bay Street is a two story wood frame house on a full masonry arcaded raised basement with a stucco render. The house has original nine over nine windows and clapboard wooden siding. It is a double pile house and has a central hall plan, with large rectangular rooms flanking the central stair hall on each floor. There are five bays of fenestration on the south façade and two window bays on the side elevations. The house is Federal style with a hipped roof, with deferring rear and side additions that are wood frame and clad in wood weatherboards. The house features a two story Neoclassical Revival front porch with monumental columns, added in the late nineteenth century. The lot fronts on Bay Street and the original 1790 property boundaries are intact and span from Bay Street a full block to North Street, covering 1.25 acres.



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## Narrative Description

### Exterior:

1207 Bay Street is a timber framed house built out of local cypress, atop a full story arcaded brick raised basement. The framing system is comprised of ten inch thick hand-hewn timber joists, resting atop a fifteen inch thick summer beam.

The south/front façade features a two story porch supported by six symmetrically spaced monumental Tuscan columns. The porch is accessed by an original double staircase constructed of brick rendered in stucco, with a large Roman relieving arch below to allow access to the arcaded raised basement. The balustrades on the first and second story porch are comprised of square railings with a simple, unmolded handrail. The porch roofline features a wide cornice with simple Neoclassical moldings.

The second story of the porch and the monumental columns were added during George Gage's ownership (1872-1904) and reflect the Colonial/Neoclassical Revival tastes of the late nineteenth century. Previously, a one story porch ran the length of the front façade. It featured square balusters similar to those currently on the house, and six evenly spaced Tuscan columns supported the hipped porch roof, which engaged with the front elevation just below the sills of the second story windows. Prior to the addition of the second story porch, the front façade featured a reverse central gable that spanned the central three window bays and tied back into the gable roof. It had a dentiled full return cornice and an elliptical fanlight in the gable end. The reverse gable was removed when the second story porch was added, and the central second story window was replaced with a door with a three light transom to allow access to the second story porch.

The house retains original windows, exterior details, symmetrical fenestration, scale, and massing which reflect the Adams stylistic preferences of the Federal era in the United States. The south façade has five symmetrically placed bays of fenestration on each story, with a central door flanked by two windows on each side. The windows are double hung, nine over nine pane wood sash windows typical of the late eighteenth century, with several surviving original panes. The windows are fitted with operable louvered shutters with traditional hardware. The front six-panel wooden entry door features a simple five pane fanlight and a Neoclassical frontispiece and original hinges and lockset. The second story central door, which opens onto the upper porch, has a three pane simple transom with square lights. There are two original symmetrical chimneys which pierce the hipped roof and are visible from the rear/north elevation. They are traditional masonry, constructed of locally made bricks.

The north/rear elevation features a reverse gable with dentil molding and a full return cornice to articulate the central bay or room that opens from the end of the central stair hall. There is a Palladian window with intricate rope molding on the second story below the gable, which ties into the hip roof of the original mass of the house. There are two symmetrically placed nine over nine windows flanking the articulated central mass with gable.

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The house was originally T-shaped in plan, with a rectangular mass and hipped roof running parallel to Bay Street, and a rear bay projecting from the hipped roof, in the center of the north/rear façade, with a reverse gable roof line. The projecting bay features original dentil molding and cornices and a Palladian window. In its original iteration, the projecting two story reverse gabled section with Palladian window was flanked by one-story bays; second stories were added above these rooms in 1885, resulting in a uniform two story central block of the north/rear elevation today, which is now flanked by a one story addition that projects from the first floor.

The eastern one-story rear bay is asymmetrical with the western bay, and projects beyond the central mass of the house. Interestingly, this asymmetrical construction is original to the house and is a common mode in Beaufort that can also be seen at the neighboring Cuthbert House and Tabby Manse. Constructing a projecting room in this manner may have been to improve ventilation, as it would allow for better cross breezes and a view of the riverfront from the rear parlor of the house.

To the rear of the house is a one story shed roofed addition with an open porch in the center bay, flanked by a kitchen and a pantry. The roof has standing seam metal cladding. There are three single pane casement windows on each side of the central porch, which has two freestanding and two engaged Tuscan columns below the reverse gable bay with Palladian window. There are two one-bay, one-story rooms on the west elevation of the house, which were probably originally detached buildings, and which now open into the main residence.

Interior:

There are two rectangular, symmetrical rooms on each side of the central stair hall on the first and second floor. The stair hall opens into an additional bay on both the first and second story, flanked by two smaller rooms (or five rooms on each floor.)

The Drawing Room and Dining Room feature paneling of northern white pine. The dining room, (on the west side of the center hall) has a plain deal mantel painted white and a hand carved cornice with elaborate tassel molding. Both rooms still contain the original doors, cornices, mantles, heart pine flooring, and wainscoting. The original newel post and stair rails are made of mahogany. The stair leads to a smoking room and two bedrooms upstairs. The bedrooms, hallways and rear rooms of the house were constructed with wainscoting and horsehair plaster walls. The cornice in both bedrooms was replaced in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. These rooms still have the original doors, mantles, heart pine flooring and wainscoting. The smoking room (rear/north central bay) retains its original Palladian window, delicate dentil ceiling cornice, heart pine flooring, and wainscoting. The house has seven original fireplaces, though not all retain their mantels. The floors are comprised of longleaf heart pine boards of three, five, and seven inch width. The majority span the length of the room in a single board, indicating early, old growth materials.

The dining room opening to the west off of the central hall has flat paneled wainscoting with a chair rail, above which is a field of flat paneling in the dado. There is two-level Neoclassical crown molding in the room, with a lower band of hand chiseled tassel molding. The six panel

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doors and windows have two level trim with an ogee profile back band that appear to be original. The fireplace is lined with dark grey marble and features an Adams style mantel with delicate dentil molding. The mantel is supported by two delicately carved reeded pilasters.

The drawing room (opening to the east off of the first floor central stair hall) contains some of Beaufort's most notable woodwork, carved of yellow and white pine.<sup>1</sup> Flat wood paneling in Neoclassical rail and stile frameworks runs from the floor to the ceiling, punctuated by a chair rail comprised of beaded sections alternating with flat sections (in a triglyph and metope rhythm) with a top band. The Adam style mantel has elaborate swags, draperies, trailing vinery, and Grecian urns, and a fire box framed by grey veined marble, which are hand carved applique. A frieze in a delicate and orderly diamond pattern sits below a cornice with carved modillions with a cavetto profile, between which are small augured recesses. A band of trim atop the cornice engages with the plaster ceiling.

The first floor central stair hall has painted flat panel wainscoting with a stained mahogany top band, plaster walls, and heart pine floors. The stairs feature stained pine treads, painted risers, and original mahogany newel post and handrail, with a swan neck curve at the landing leading to the second floor. The balustrades are delicate square profile painted pine railings, typical of American Federal architecture.

The first floor office/northeastern room has six inch wide heart pine floors, flat plaster walls and ceilings, simple wainscoting with a top band rather than a chair rail, and a low profile crown molding band. The mantel is less intricate than the dentiled and reeded elements found in the principal rooms of the house, reflecting the office space as a more private part of the house.

The second floor west bedroom has flat wainscoting and a simple chair rail, original six panel doors, and an Adams mantel piece with reeded pilasters and dentil molding similar to that found in the Dining Room. The crown molding features dentils below a flat frieze, which is topped with an ogee band where the trim engages with the plaster ceiling. The window trim engages with the dentil molding and the chair rail.

The second floor eastern bedroom has two-level casing, six panel doors, flat wainscoting, and a dentiled cornice similar to the west bedroom. The reeded pilasters are wider on this mantelpiece than in the other rooms. The mantelpiece is decorated with carved tassels similar to the dining room.

The smoking room (in the northern central bay on the second story) is accessed by two steps leading from the stair hall landing. The rectangular room has flat wainscoting with a wide baseboard and four panel door, both probably late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The crown molding sits atop a wide, flat back band. The Palladian window features reeded pilasters as mullions.

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<sup>1</sup> Mary Kendall Hilton, *Old Homes & Churches of Beaufort County*, 72.

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The study on the western rear of the second story has simple two level trim, narrow crown molding, and flat wainscoting similar to that found in the northeastern room/ office on the first floor.

The basement is accessed via a stair descending from the central stair hall of the first floor and by a glazed door opening into the arcaded supports of the front porch. The basement walls are constructed of local brick laid in American common bond. The interior does not have a stucco render. Relieving arches for the upstairs fireplaces are visible. The basement originally had a brick floor over packed earth, which was excavated during the 2017 renovations, allowing for archeological analysis of the cisterns located below the house (addressed further in the “potential for archeology” section of this report.) The raised basement now has polished concrete floors, approximately one foot lower than the original packed earth floor; the height differential is visible at the base of the brick walls and support piers, there the brick courses corbel outward at the base as part of the foundation.<sup>2</sup> The first floor joist system is exposed in the raised basement, and hand hewing marks are clearly visible.

Alterations: Additions have been made on the rear of the house, constructed incrementally to provide additional living space and indoor modern amenities such as kitchens and bathrooms. All of the additions defer to the original dwelling in height, scale, and mass and do not alter the fenestration on the principal facades of the house.

By 1885, second story additions had been added atop the original one story rooms flanking the Palladian central mass on the north façade. Owner George Gage wrote to Niagara Insurance Company that he “was now building a room on the northeast corner of [the house], that is, building a second story to the one story room that was there, the old room had a shingle roof and the new room has a tin roof, making it safer I think.”<sup>3</sup> The additions have a shed roofline that ties into the main house below the cornice line, and are not visible from the street. A detached rear unit on the west facade was connected to the main residence via the pre-1899 additions.<sup>4</sup>

The two projecting west rooms are one story wood frame units, supported by brick piers. They have gable roofs running parallel to the ridgeline of the house. All of the additions, with exception of the one story rear porch, were constructed by 1899, when they appear on a *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*. The one story rear most addition has a tall masonry chimney, indicating its use as a kitchen or laundry space. The original rooflines of the main house (except for a reverse gable on the front elevation, which was removed to construct the second story porch) and kitchen house, and the those of the lower pitched rear additions, are visible in an aerial Google Earth view of the house. George Gage also constructed the two story colonnaded front porch to replace the earlier Federal era one story porch.

In 2016-2018, the house was renovated and restored, including new mechanical, electrical and

<sup>2</sup> The flared base of the basement walls and piers, which would have been below grade originally, are visible in images 8 and 9.

<sup>3</sup> Gage Papers, Box 2, Letter of A. Wilcox and Son/Niagara Insurance, 31 May 1885. Gage did not mention the second story porch in his letter.

<sup>4</sup> 1899 *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map*.

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plumbing systems added in a minimally invasive way. The ground level was excavated 18" discovering an existing cistern. It has been left exposed to allow for potential further archeology or study.

As the first floor was restored, an existing hidden fireplace was uncovered behind a twentieth century partition wall. The mantel had been removed in an earlier renovation, so the original brickwork, wooden lintel, and jack arch were left exposed and the fireplace is now incorporated into a sitting room which is adjacent to a new kitchen space. An added bedroom (which had been created with a twentieth century partition wall of nominal dimensional lumber) was removed as well. With the removal of other modern partition walls there is an open floor plan in part of the back bay of the house; the original exterior wall and nine over nine windows are intact on the western portion of the rear. A section of a rear exterior wall had been removed in the mid twentieth century (shown in figure 12, HABS photo of the rear of the house) to create the shed roofed rear addition. This bay formerly had small aluminum windows, which were replaced with the large single pane casement windows currently in place. A wall was also removed from the eastern rear projecting bay (which was originally detached) to allow access from the kitchen into the sitting room area.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Historic American Buildings Survey. The layout of the rear sitting room and kitchen area are shown in photographs 21, 22, and 23.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Social History

Politics/Government

**Period of Significance**

1790

1872-1904

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Gage, George

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Means-Gage House is significant under Criterion B for Politics/Government and Social History, for its associations with George Gage and the Reconstruction era in Beaufort. George Gage made contributions to broader patterns of Beaufort history as a local politician (acting intendent and warden of Beaufort, and later as town clerk), as a federal civil servant (as Port Collector and Port Inspector for the Customs House) and as a local businessman (operating both a lumber mill and working as a land surveyor). For more than thirty years, Gage had his finger on the pulse of Beaufort politics, business, and economic development, and he served as a link between the town and the larger context of state and national politics through his connections to important Republican politicians. Further, he linked Beaufort to the global market through his role as Port Collector, which he obtained through his political connections to various state and national level politicians and figures (such as Clara Barton, Thomas E. Miller, and Robert Smalls). Gage owned and occupied the house from 1872 until his death in 1904, spending his productive years there. The Means-Gage House is also significant under Criterion C, Architecture for its Federal era details and for the Neoclassical Revival façade updates made by Gage. The house's architecture is indicative of Beaufort's golden age in the early Republic, when a small group of elite planters and professionals built stately Adams homes. There are less than thirty federal era houses remaining in Beaufort. The house features characteristic Federal architectural traits (symmetry, central hall plan, simple Neoclassical details) but also has features that are unique to the Beaufort area, namely the T shaped plan with projected reverse gable on the rear of the house, and the slight asymmetry of the rear bays to capture prevailing breezes. The interior retains finely carved Adams mantel pieces, paneling, and cornices. Gage installed a second story to the porch, in keeping with southern Neoclassical Revival tastes of the late nineteenth century. The house reflects both the original Federal era architectural style and materials, and Gage's occupancy.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Criterion B: Social History; Politics/Government**

Gage was an important figure in Beaufort politics from his arrival in 1862 until his death. He stood out among his peers in the Beaufort political arena because of his connections to national level Radical Republican politicians, which garnered him important federal appointments such as Port Collector. His political career provides a unique window into the social, economic, and political climate of Reconstruction and the post-Reconstruction era Beaufort town and Beaufort County, as the Republican Party vied for local and state control against the Democratic Party (populated by old guard politicians and former Confederates). Historian Arthur Gelston notes that, "judging from the available records, Gage was one of the more substantial citizens in the county. A self-made and self-righteous man who claimed to adhere to principles 'higher than the



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law' in his financial and political dealings, Gage was quick to deprecate his political allies as well as his enemies", including Robert Smalls who he once called "a South Carolina politician of the worst sort."<sup>6</sup> The Ohio-born Republican was able to alter and enlarge the Means-Gage house during the economically volatile post-Reconstruction era in Beaufort through his various business interests and political appointments.

Beaufort fell to Union forces in late 1861 and was occupied for the duration of the Civil War. With Federal occupation, many rice and cotton planters left Beaufort and their property was seized by the Union and occupied by newly freed slaves, military forces, government officials, and northern missionaries and educators who came to work with the freed population. The planters' townhouses were similarly seized for back taxes and sold to incoming northerners.<sup>7</sup> While other parts of South Carolina suffered widespread property damage during the war and economic ruin, Beaufort entered a period of prosperity because of its early fall to the Union and a subsequent influx of outside money and northern interests.<sup>8</sup> It is in this context that George Gage, a "carpetbagger", bought the Means-Gage house in 1872. He was the son of a well-known abolitionist, Frances "Aunt Fanny" Gage, who moved with her daughter Mary to St. Helena Island during the Union Occupation of Beaufort County, where they worked with famous Civil War nurse and future head of the Red Cross, Clara Barton, and as teachers for the newly emancipated freed people.<sup>9</sup> Although Mary and Frances Gage returned to the North after the Civil War, George Gage remained in Beaufort for the rest of his life. He remained in contact with Clara Barton and may have been instrumental in her returning to the Beaufort area provide hurricane relief following the Sea Islands Storm of 1893, through the Red Cross. Gage referred to Barton's coastal work and the necessity of continued aid for the black population in a letter in November 1893: "The colored people here are inferior to our white laborers in the north who were born there. They are either freemen or their descendants. They are the best colored people in the state. They cultivate as a rule, their own lands, work by the day week or month whenever they can get work. Miss Barton seems to be getting a list of those who read and those who do not and she's doing as well as can be done in that way, for a map of the islands."<sup>10</sup>

George Gage had studied civil engineering and worked with Steubenville and Indiana Railroad in the 1850s, before receiving an appointment during the Civil War under Secretary of War Edwin McMaster Stanton, to assist in railroad construction for the movement of Union troops. He arrived in Beaufort in 1862 to work as a surveyor and to fill an appointment as "special agent in connection with work among the contrabands [former slaves]." During this time, Gage became interested in the plight of freed people and decided to stay in South Carolina.<sup>11</sup> Gage married Sarah Marshall Ely (1834-1909), a New Jersey native whom he met in Beaufort during

<sup>6</sup> Gelston, "Radical versus Straight-out", 229.

<sup>7</sup> Historic Beaufort National Register, 9; Gelston states in "Radical versus Straight-out" that, after Union occupation, "the town itself was sold to freedmen and the few remaining whites for tax arrears. Those plantations not broken up into smaller plots for black farmers were bought by Yankees looking to profit from Sea Island cotton, indigo, and rice." 226.

<sup>8</sup> Rowland and Rogers, *History of Beaufort County*, Vol. 2, 491.

<sup>9</sup> Michals, Debra. "Clara Barton, 1821-1912", National Women's History Museum.

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/clara-barton>

<sup>10</sup> George Gage papers, Box 2, letter to CK Hall, Washington DC, 14 November 1893.

<sup>11</sup> Ely, "Ely, Revelle, and Stacey Family", 374.

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the Civil War while she was teaching on St. Helena. Sarah was a founding member and secretary of the Freeman's and Home Relief Association of Lambertsville, chartered in 1864 to "afford relief to the impoverished and distressed people known as the "Freedmen" of our land, as well as to administer to the necessities of the needy in our immediate vicinity."<sup>12</sup> The organization raised money through concerts and other fundraisers, collected food and clothing, and visited families on the Sea Islands around Beaufort to distribute their collected relief.<sup>13</sup> Sarah also taught for the Freedmen's Bureau school in Beaufort from 1866 to 1867.

The Freedmen's Bureau was a federally administered relief program whose overarching goal was to aid newly freed slaves' transition into life as free citizens, providing medical aid, food, and education to the formerly enslaved, and had sub-offices to distribute land and assist freed people with labor contracts. Historian Walter Edgar notes that, "although not state-run, the Freedmen's Bureau was disliked by white South Carolinians more than any other [Reconstruction era] program."<sup>14</sup> The Bureau also created the Freedmen's Bank, where Gage served on the Executive Committee and the Advisory Committee of the Beaufort Branch from 1868 to 1873 engineer.<sup>15</sup> When the bank collapsed in 1873 due to high risk speculative loan and investment practices, fraud and mismanagement, changes to the initial bank charter, and the larger effects of the nationally catastrophic Panic of 1873, he briefly worked in the insurance industry, taking over his father-in-law Henry Ely's agency.<sup>16</sup>

George Gage worked as the chief engineer to design and construct a new rail line into Beaufort during the decade of economic growth following the Civil War. The line connected to the Port Royal main line to link to phosphate mining operations on Chisolm Island, and important local industry.<sup>17</sup> He was also active in Beaufort social life at this time, and "led a group local residents in the 1860s to found a social club, as our population was then made up largely of men from all parts of the North and West."<sup>18</sup> Gage served as a county commissioner for the South Carolina Free School Fund, was acting intendant and magistrate for Beaufort in 1875 and 1876, was the branch trustee for the Southern Life Insurance Company, and continued work as a surveyor.<sup>19</sup> During his time as intendent, he oversaw various civic activities and was involved in infrastructural projects, including new drain installations in the business district in 1876. Gage worked with the aldermen to select a contractor, and was heavily involved with managing the project and seeing its completion when the project fell behind schedule.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Journal of Sarah Gage, 1864-1866, pg. 41-42.

<sup>13</sup> Journal of Sarah Gage, 1864-1866, pg. 11-14.

<sup>14</sup> Edgar, *South Carolina: A History*, 396.

<sup>15</sup> Davis, "Bankless in Beaufort", 51.

<sup>16</sup> "The Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company," *Prologue*, <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1997/summer/freedmans-savings-and-trust.html>. Accessed 31 August 2019.

<sup>17</sup> Rowland, *History of Beaufort County Vol. 2*, 502.

<sup>18</sup> Harvey, *Beaufort County Above Ground Resources Survey*, Section II, 29.

<sup>19</sup> *Beaufort Republican*, 14 August 1873; *Beaufort Crescent*, 29 September 1875.; Gage Papers, Box 1, note from 14 June 1875.

<sup>20</sup> George Gage Papers, Box 1, notation dated 19 January 1896.

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Gage was influential in Beaufort's connection to the larger Atlantic world through shipping, as Port Collector (1872-1880) and Deputy Collector and Inspector (1885-1886). He was first appointed by President Ulysses S. Grant as customs collector in 1872, which was also the year he purchased the Means-Gage house. The Collector job was, "an important position in the local hierarchy of federal patronage."<sup>21</sup> The United States Customs Service was created in the early federal era to regulate shipping and importation and to collect customs, tariffs, and other applicable revenue on goods coming into the United States. Customs positions were highly sought after and paid well, and were doled out on a "spoils system" based on favoritism, personal and family connections, and political lobbying.<sup>22</sup> The Customs or Port Collector positions in South Carolina followed this trend, and were lucrative and highly sought after by politically motivated individuals. The position carried a substantial \$1000 annual salary in the 1870s.

As Port Collector, Gage was in regular communication with the Treasury Department in Washington D.C. and oversaw all incoming shipments of goods into Beaufort County. As Keeper of Lights, he was influential in appointing Beaufort County lighthouse keepers.<sup>23</sup> He also received maritime officers at the Means-Gage House; for example, he received an unnamed "Master of the Commodore" and a Captain A. Ward at his Bay Street home in September 1874.<sup>24</sup> Gage served as Collector during a busy period in Lowcountry maritime commerce, when trade to Beaufort District was increasing from forty-four foreign clearances from January to June 1875, to thirty-nine clearances from January to March of 1876 alone.<sup>25</sup> St. Helena, Port Royal, and Beaufort were all under Gage's purview as part of the Beaufort District. The Collector position was complex in that it required a financial background, knowledge of state and federal shipping statutes, and diligent record keeping, noting where all ships were disembarking from and what cargo they were depositing in Beaufort. During Gage's service, ships arrived in Beaufort from Argentina, Great Britain, and from domestic ports, carrying cargo including phosphate fertilizer, salt, flour, and preserved meats. Gage sent customs bills, balanced the port's revenue, wrote letters and corresponded with ship captains and the Treasury Department, and worked with local and federal inspectors as part of his job.<sup>26</sup>

Appointment as Port Collector hinged heavily on political allegiances and personal relationships in the Reconstruction era and into the later nineteenth century. The Republican Party had a stronghold in Beaufort County in part because of the large population of "carpetbaggers" migrating from the northern states to fill the political void left by the collapse of the Confederacy and freed people, and the party in the 1860s and 1870s was more Radical than the rest of the state. Most Beaufort Republicans were Radical in their support for their black compatriots and were resistant to sharing political control with the pre-war ruling class. One of the main signifiers of Radical Republican politics was support for African Americans in politics and as citizens. Reconciliationist Republicans, on the other hand, were willing to work politically with former

<sup>21</sup> Gelston, "Radical versus Straight-out", 225.

<sup>22</sup> National U.S. Customs Museum, "History", <http://customsmuseum.org/history/>. Accessed 25 August 2019.

<sup>23</sup> George Gage Papers, Box 1, letters from 16 and 17 July 1876 refer to lighthouse appointments.

<sup>24</sup> George Gage Papers, Box 1, letter to Captain A. Ward, 4 September 1874.

<sup>25</sup> George Gage Papers, Box 1, letter to Treasurer, 27 March 1876.

<sup>26</sup> The Gage Papers, Box 1, at Duke University include letters and bills sent by Gage to captains of various national and internationally bound ships.

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Confederates and native southern white politicians, often to the detriment of their black constituency. Gage identified as a Radical.<sup>27</sup> Throughout his life, Gage was an advocate for African Americans and supported fellow Republican politicians regardless of color, identifying as a Radical.<sup>28</sup>

Beaufort District enjoyed an integrated political climate in the Reconstruction era, which continued even after the 1876 state elections and the reemergence of the Democratic party political control under Governor Wade Hampton, in part because of the strong northern presence in that section of the state. Historian Lawrence Rowland explained, “for another generation, Beaufort County remained a Republican stronghold in politics, a Yankee colony in economic terms, and with the US Naval Station at Port Royal, a permanent beachhead for the Federal military establishment.” President Grant visited the town on Emancipation Day in 1880 to great fanfare, arriving via the new Port Royal and Augusta railroad. The welcoming committee, was representative of diverse Reconstruction era Beaufort population of blacks and whites, Union and Confederate veterans, northern merchants and southern professionals, and included George Gage, then-Customs collector George Holmes, merchants George Waterhouse and Moritz Pollitzer, black postmaster Thomas Ezekiel Miller.<sup>29</sup>

Gage provides insight into the political and economic inner workings of Beaufort County and state politics in the late nineteenth century, and he was an important if controversial member of the Republican Party in Beaufort County. Perhaps because of his uncompromising ethics and billing while Customs Collector, or due to the fact that he was from the northern states, or because of the complexities of party politics in the late nineteenth century, Gage felt snubbed and was sometimes excluded from social activities.<sup>30</sup> Gage regularly corresponded with Thomas Ezekiel Miller (a South Carolina born African American state legislator, lawyer, state Supreme Court justice, educator, and occasional rival of Gage), various Secretaries of the Treasury in his role as Port Collector, and with Robert Smalls, a famous African American politician born into slavery in Charleston who worked as a sailmaker and rigger and who stole the Confederate sloop the *Planter* during the Civil War and delivered it over the Charleston bar to Union forces and escaped to freedom.<sup>31</sup> Gage was periodically allied with or fighting against Miller, Smalls, and William J. Whipper for political appointments such as the Port Collector position. Whipper, a circuit judge and lawyer prior to being arrested for fraud, used his paper, the *Beaufort Tribune*, to attack Smalls’ and other rivals’ politics.<sup>32</sup>

Gage was reappointed as Customs Collector in 1876, when the *Beaufort Crescent* reported, “A faithful steward. The president has reappointed, and the Senate last week confirmed, George Gage as collector of customs for Beaufort and Port Royal, his commission having expired this month, after four years of service. This appointment is a tribute to an honest and faithful officer

<sup>27</sup> Gelston, “Radical versus Straight-out”, 225, 229-230.

<sup>28</sup> Gage Papers, Box 2, letter to Thomas E Miller, 17 December 1888.

<sup>29</sup> Rowland and Rogers, *History of Beaufort County*, Vol. 2, 490-491.

<sup>30</sup> Gage Papers, Box 1, letter to Beardale, 20 July 1894.

<sup>31</sup> Gelston, “Radical versus Straight-out”, 228.

<sup>32</sup> Gelston, “Radical versus Straight-out”, 229.

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who has ever been found correct in his conduct of the trust placed in his charged. In these days of crooked whisky and revenue frauds the Government learns how to value men of integrity . . . we find man who is no “party” man again appointed to a position for which he is not found necessary by being able to manage the caucus, but by being able to do his duty. We learn upon inquiry that during the past four years Mr. Gage has collected for customs \$167,107, one sixth as much as in Charleston and one fifteenth of that in Savannah. Mr. Gage has been inspector or collector of this port since 1862 and there is yet to be found the first error in his accounts. This is a record of which he can justly be proud.”<sup>33</sup>

Following the end of Reconstruction in South Carolina in 1876, the “Straight-out” Democrats, who desired to marginalize African Americans and disenfranchise them, began to take control of state politics. Although they were less successful in Beaufort than other parts of the state, they continued to work to undermine Republican political control. For example, in 1882 the Straight-outs sought to eliminate Radical votes with the “passage of a new registration and election law in 1882, so complex that illiterate blacks were easily misinformed as to its requirements. . . the “eight box law” which in its final form required (black) voters to place their ballots unassisted into the box with one of eight particular officer inscribed on the top. George Gage wrote that the elections, “where voters cannot read, are a farce, and when you come to add ballot box stuffing, it is a farce and a crime combined.”<sup>34</sup> Gage was troubled by unethical political practices and attempts to disenfranchise Beaufort citizens. He wrote to J.L. Taylor (a congressman) in Ohio in 1888 that Robert Smalls had to withdraw his candidacy for sheriff as ““it was evident that he was in a very hopeless minority. . . . there was a great deal of good about him. The US Gov. should say to the south ‘where you disenfranchise a man who cannot read, you shall not count him in filling your basis for congressional representation.”<sup>35</sup>

The following year Gage spoke to Taylor of the devolving political situation in the state for the Republican party: “You have most likely received a copy of the Address of Chairman Brayton on the election outrages in this state, what he says is true, but I fear it will not be understood by honest men at the north who know nothing of the matter to serve as a key to guide their thoughts while reading. This last election Mr. Howe was sent there to look at the democratic interests (he is Elliott’s law partner) I went off to look out for the Republican interests- the result was that there was no row (there was one Dem Negro half drunk and several Dem Negroes distributing tickets who were anxious to argue the question.) I had more trouble trying to manage them, than I did all of the republicans.”<sup>36</sup>

While running for federal reappointment as port collector, George Gage circulated petitions to garner support for businessmen, local and state politicians with Washington connections, and he even solicited Clara Barton, whom he corresponded with throughout the 1870s and 1880s to ask

<sup>33</sup> *Beaufort Crescent*, 16 February 1876.

<sup>34</sup> Gelston, “Radical versus Straight-out”, 232; Gage Papers, Gage to Taylor, 10 November 1888.

<sup>35</sup> Gage Papers, Box 2, letter to JL Taylor, 10 November 1888.

<sup>36</sup> Gage Papers, Box 2, letter to JL Taylor, 24 January 1889.

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for her assistance in helping him secure political appointments in the Beaufort area.<sup>37</sup> Gage was also influential in renewing Barton's interest in service and social work in the Beaufort area.<sup>38</sup>

In 1884 Gage corresponded with Sara A. Richardson, wife of Treasurer Charles Richardson, about Col. Paul Hamilton's petition for the collectorship, offering insight into the complexities of landing federal appointments; "Col Paul Hamilton who I have known for many years and who I respect very much, asked me to sign his petition for the collectorship but I could not sign it. Republicans will hardly sign a petition for the removal of a republican to make room for a democrat. As the salary for the collectorship is over \$1000 a year the senators from this state will control the appointment even with all petitions."<sup>39</sup> White Radicalism by this period was in decline and the *Washington Bee* reported, "Thomas Miller is in trouble if he quarrels with Smalls, especially since he wants to put a white Republican (George Gage) in Smalls' place after Smalls threw himself into the breach to get Miller elected as the next Negro congressman in the state".<sup>40</sup> Reconciliationist Republicans began tacitly accepting or even advocating in Congress to disenfranchise black voters. Gage was upset by this, especially because he had lost his Customs collector position in the 1870s when fellow Radicals forced him to step down for appointing a Democrat as lighthouse keeper.<sup>41</sup> Despite political tensions, Gage managed to secure an appointment as Deputy Collector and Inspector in 1885.

In 1888, Gage and Smalls were vying against one another for the Customs Collector appointment as H.W. Richardson's appointment was set to expire the following year. The *Charleston News and Courier* reported: "politics in Beaufort. The Bread and Butter Brigade rallying for an attack on the office. The angry Republicans cannot wait any longer and a number of them have gotten up petitions to send to the president elect for appointments. Among them are ex-congressman Bob Smalls and George Gage for collector of customs. Mr. Gage was at one time collector of customs and therefore thinks he can make an impression on the new administration."<sup>42</sup> Gage circulated a support petition (hoping for the support of C. Waterhouse, Thomas J. Reynolds, Samuel Green, D.C. Wilson, and W.H. Calvert; several of whom endorsed Robert Smalls when he announced his interest) and sent dozens of letters in 1888 and 1889 soliciting support. Gage compiled a dossier of incriminating evidence of Small's ineptitude for the post, which he mailed to Clara Barton to share with her contacts in Washington, to strengthen his chances of gaining the appointment.<sup>43</sup> On Congressman Taylor's suggestion, he asked Barton to speak on his behalf to the Secretary of the Treasury in Washington, D.C. to help his chances for the collectorship.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>37</sup> Gage, George. *Clara Barton Papers: General Correspondence, -1912; Gage, George, 1878 to 1889*. 1878. Manuscript/Mixed Material. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mss119730262/>. George Gage to Clara Barton, 8 December 1878.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid, George Gage to Barton, 26 April 1889.

<sup>39</sup> George Gage papers, Box 2, letter to Sara Richardson, 30 December 1884.

<sup>40</sup> Gelston, "Radical versus Straight-out", 231.

<sup>41</sup> Gelston, "Radical versus Straight-out", 233; Gage papers, letter dated 15 February 1885.

<sup>42</sup> *News and Courier*, 2 March 1889.

<sup>43</sup> Gelston, "Radical versus Straight-out", 233; Gage Papers, Box 2, letter to Clara Barton, 5 May 1889.

<sup>44</sup> George Gage papers, Box 2, letter to Clara Barton, 30 April 1889.



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Gage intimated in a letter to a North Carolina friend that, “there are five so called Republicans who want to be collector of Customs for this district. Robert Smalls is one of them, I am another. Smalls has no qualifications, that fit him for the place, while he has several ‘points of character’ that wholly unfit him for the place. The best men of our section feel that it would be a serious calamity to have him made the collector. He was elected to congress two years ago, but counted out by fraud and perjury . . . and now poses as a martyr and ask the Republican congressmen to help him to get the collectorship. He is ignorant, and politically dishonest as any man I ever knew.”<sup>45</sup> Gage then asked for Charles Richardson’s support in Washington D.C.<sup>46</sup> Gage claimed that Smalls had slandered him as a “Negro Hater,” bringing up Gage’s appointment of Democrats as lighthouse keepers a decade prior, and claiming that Gage had said \$10.00 month wages was enough for “a Negro”, which Gage stated was “willfully and maliciously false.”<sup>47</sup> Smalls ultimately received the Collector position, and Gage continued working as a surveyor and at his mill. Later in 1889, Smalls agreed to support Gage for an agent position with the treasury department, in exchange for Gage instructing Smalls’ assistant Guffin in the “affairs of the Customs House”.<sup>48</sup>

In 1890-91, Gage vied for a Postmaster General appointment, this time with Robert Smalls’ support, as the two men had apparently reconciled after their Collector appointment standoff. Smalls stated that Gage had the endorsement of all the leading business men in Beaufort, although the appointment became complicated and politicized (like many others in post-Reconstruction era Beaufort.)<sup>49</sup> Gage summarized a decade of frustration to his sister, Mary Gage: “I was Collector of customs for seven years, when I was removed for political reasons. . . when Cleveland was elected I was still his deputy but when Cleveland removed him and of course that threw me out. I am now running a saw mill here when I can get logs. I forgot to tell you that although I held important political offices here and handling a great deal of money, where dishonest officials were the rule, I have never heard of any Democrat or Republican ever saying that they thought I was dishonest or incompetent.”<sup>50</sup>

A diversified businessmen, George Gage operated a lumber mill intermittently from the early 1870s to 1891 to supply income during his civic appointments. Gage processed lumber for Beaufort and Charleston clients, and also shipped building materials and maritime timber to clients in Boston, possibly using his connections in the shipping industry through his title as Port Collector for Beaufort to capitalize on advantageous shipping arrangements. After a period of economic straits at the mill, Gage finally sold his facility in 1891 to a “company who wanted the land only, and that for the waterfront,” and his was the last locally owned mill in operation.<sup>51</sup> After the sale, he reentered political life in 1891 when he was elected as clerk and treasurer of

<sup>45</sup> George Gage papers, Box 2, letter to Francis N. Buck, 6 March 1889.

<sup>46</sup> George Gage papers, Box 2, letter to Charles Richardson, 9 March 1889.

<sup>47</sup> George Gage papers, Box 2, letter to Thomas E. Miller, 8 May 1889; letter to Clara Barton, 12 May 1889; letter to Thomas E. Miller, 24 May 1889.

<sup>48</sup> George Gage papers, Box 2, letter to Thomas E. Miller, 7 July 1889.

<sup>49</sup> *Charleston News and Courier*, 18 February 1891; George Gage papers, box 2, letter to JD Taylor, 2 December 1889.

<sup>50</sup> Gage papers, Box 2, letter to Mary Gage, 27 May 1890.

<sup>51</sup> Gage papers, Box 2, letter FR Williams Census Officer, 2 August 1890; ‘letter to “Friend Buck”, 5 June 1892.

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the town of Beaufort, a position he held until his death in 1904.<sup>52</sup> The *State* newspaper noted when he was up for reelection in 1900 that, “he is a white Republican and strong supporter of the Negro, hence there was little surprise at the appearance of his name on a negro ticket.”<sup>53</sup> He died at age 73 and was interred at St. Helena Episcopal Church, down the street from the Means Gage House.<sup>54</sup> Brockington and Associates stated that “by his death in 1904 Gage was among Beaufort’s respected old men and a member of St. Helena’s Episcopal Church.”<sup>55</sup> The house remained in the Gage family until 1919 when it was sold to Major Edwin Denby.

**Criterion C: Architecture**

The Means-Gage house was constructed circa 1790 and is representative of both the era and location in which it was constructed. It exhibits characteristic Beaufort features, as well as high style Adams or federal architectural details. It is one of the most intact examples of federal era architecture in the town of Beaufort, and the least altered in the Bluff neighborhood, with a high level of integrity on the interior. The house also features a two story front porch with monumental Tuscan columns, which was added by George Gage during the height of revival style ornamentation in the late nineteenth century. It is one of few houses in Beaufort to exhibit style features from this era, and this later alteration did not entirely obscure the earlier Federal features of the house.

Following the American Revolution, the Beaufort area experienced a short-lived economic downturn due to the loss of portions of the enslaved population (who ran away or left with the British forces) and the financial tribulations of war. The town then “rebounded with the strength of cotton as the regional cash crop, and prospered through increased trade after the end of British trading constraints.” With the flourishing economy came a short building boom of Federal style residences, as the population of the town of Beaufort swelled from 200 in 1795, to over 1600 residents in 1805. There were approximately 120 houses in the town at that time, of which 29 from the Federal era survive.<sup>56</sup>

The Federal style was popular in the United States from circa 1780 to 1820. High style examples were concentrated in prosperous eastern port cities of Boston, Salem, Newport, Providence, Bristol, Philadelphia, New York City, Charleston, Alexandria, and Savannah. The Federal style is considered a development upon and refinement of the preceding Georgian style, which was more likely to have asymmetry and vernacular inspiration even in high style examples. Federal buildings draw more closely on European architectural trends, especially of the Adams Brothers firm (known for their delicate Neoclassical flourishes.)<sup>57</sup> According to architectural historian Virginia McAlester, “houses of the Federal style are often characterized as having a lightness and delicacy in comparison with their close Georgian relatives (smaller moldings, but the scheme

<sup>52</sup> *Charleston News and Courier*, 10 September 1891, “Gage, white Republican belonging to the regular wing of the part, was elected.” Lockwood v. Lockwood, 47 SE 441 (SC 1904).

<sup>53</sup> *The State*, 9 November 1900.

<sup>54</sup> *The State*, 16 June 1904.

<sup>55</sup> Brockington and Associates, *Beaufort County Above Ground Resources Survey*, section 2 pg. 29; *Beaufort Gazette*, June 1904.

<sup>56</sup> Helsley, *A Guide to Historic Beaufort*, 57, 61; Rowland and Rogers, *History of Beaufort*, Vol. 1, 264.

<sup>57</sup> McAlester, *Field Guide*, 221; Harvey, *Beaufort Above Ground Resources Survey*, Section III-6.



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of many of the structural parts- windows, ceiling heights- is enlarged.)”<sup>58</sup> In keeping with these characteristics, the Means-Gage house has fourteen foot high ceilings, large windows to illuminate the intricately detailed interior spaces, and attenuated Neoclassical details framing the Palladian window on the rear elevation and around the entry door on the façade.

Federal houses generally feature, “a semicircular or elliptical fanlight over the front door; fanlights often incorporated into more elaborate door surround, which may have a decorative crown; cornice usually emphasized by decorative moldings, most commonly dentils; windows aligned horizontally and vertically in symmetrical rows, usually five-ranked along one façade; three part Palladian windows are common,” most commonly located on front of side gables.<sup>59</sup> The Means-Gage house exhibits all of these characteristics, although the formal Palladian window is located on the rear elevation to overlook the large rear garden.

McAlester notes that, “the interiors of many Federal houses contain graceful decorative ornament, either carved in wood or cast in plaster, applied to mantels, walls, ceilings, and elsewhere.” Typical decorative motifs include swags, garlands, urns, and classical geometric patterns (most commonly elliptical, circular, or fan-like shapes formed by fluted radiating lines.)<sup>60</sup> The interior of the Means-Gage house exhibits all of these elements, and its intact Adams design motifs that have been documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey.

The Means-Gage house is unusual in that it features nine over nine pane windows, while most Federal style houses feature a six over six pane configuration of large glass panes, reflecting technological improvements in glass manufactory and improved availability of imported glass in the post-Revolutionary era.<sup>61</sup> The nine over nine light pattern on the Means-Gage House reflects its construction in the early Federal era, before trade and international shipping with the nascent United States had stabilized, and also the remoteness of Beaufort, South Carolina as compared to Charleston or larger port cities of New England.

The Means Gage House exhibits architectural characteristics unique to Beaufort, South Carolina, such as a T-plan, with a bay projecting towards the rear, which is uncommon on a Federal era house. Most Federal style houses were rectangular in plan, covered by a hipped or gable roof. Central projecting reverse gables typically were found on the façade of the house, and were shallow enhancements of the entry area, rather than an entire room or bay.<sup>62</sup> The T plan is a folk variant of the Federal era specific to the Beaufort area, and is referred as the “Beaufort style.” Bruce Harvey of Brockington and Associates describes the Beaufort style as follows: “local variants within the dominant, national Federal era emerged, including high style and folk variations. Folk adaptations of the Federal style feature a two story central block with a two story gable ended or pedimented stair hall extending to the rear. Typically, one story high wings with shed roof flank the stair hall to the right and left.” T plan houses were adaptable both in terms of

<sup>58</sup> McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses*, 218.

<sup>59</sup> McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses*, 217.

<sup>60</sup> McAlester, *Field Guide*, 218.

<sup>61</sup> McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses*, 220.

<sup>62</sup> McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses*, 216-218.

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material and size, and “maximized cross ventilation without sacrificing any pretension to architectural distinction.”<sup>63</sup>

The National Register Beaufort Historic District nomination form notes that, “the architecture reflects a wealthy and enterprising town whose inhabitants were obviously people of taste and cultivation. Unlike the predominantly urban designs of Charleston and Savannah, Beaufort houses, free standing on large lots, are more akin to the architecture of southern plantations brought to town and adapted to the heat of the summer weather and the dampness of lowlands, as well as to the aesthetics of their waterfront settings.” Characteristics include a principal façade facing the river that is often “adorned with a two story verandah on a high podium of stucco over brick or tabby. The Classical Orders are generally used for the slender columns,” and the porches often run the whole length of the front façade. “The verandah base is often open for ventilation of the basement floor. Supporting the verandahs are piers and arches. The interiors generally have two open central halls, one above the other and connected by a handsome central stairway with a Palladian window at the landing.”<sup>64</sup> The Means-Gage house incorporates all of these features.

There are twenty-nine federal era houses constructed between 1780 and 1820 extant in Beaufort, and the majority are located in the Point and the Bluff neighborhoods. Six of these are T plan or T plan variant houses similar in layout to the Means-Gage House; the Barnwell Gough house (circa 1780, 750 Washington Street), Tabby Manse (1211 Bay Street, 1786), Marshlands (circa 1814, 501 Pinckney Street), DeTreville House (circa 1785, 701 Greene Street), Farmer House (circa 1800, 412 East Street), and Fraser house (circa 1800, 901 Prince Street.) Most of the Federal era houses were modified in the nineteenth century with altered fenestration, larger window panes, bay windows, commercially milled porch balustrades and columns, and Victorian architectural elements.<sup>65</sup> While none of the houses escaped the nineteenth century without some level of alteration, the Means Gage house is one of the most intact to the Federal period in the Bluff neighborhood. For example, the Cuthbert house at 1203 Bay Street has multiple Victorian alterations including a “gingerbread” porch and projecting bay windows; the Tabby Manse has later windows, an added front portico, and contrasting year additions. The Charles Leverett House at 1301 Bay Street is fairly intact to its era of construction circa 1800, but features a projecting hip roof with integral two story wrap around porches more typical of French colonial/Louisiana vernacular architecture than the Beaufort/Lowcountry region. The Barnwell house at 1405 Bay Street, constructed circa 1800, has large modern windows and projecting later additions visible from the façade. One block north of the waterfront lies Craven Street, with federal era houses including 1009 Craven (the Rhett house, with a heavily modified interior due to its adaptive use as an inn), 1109 Craven (circa 1820, with a large hip roof and integral double porches similar to 1301 Bay Street), and 1113 Craven (the Maxcy House, which has mid nineteenth century gallery doors, several rear additions, and a later porch, but which does retain six over six pane windows).

<sup>63</sup> Harvey, et al, *Beaufort County Above Ground Survey*, Section III, 6-7.

<sup>64</sup> Historic Beaufort National Register, 2-3.

<sup>65</sup> Historic Beaufort National Register expansion, 1998, section 7-4.

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While the Means-Gage house retains its Federal era character in the interior, on the rear and side elevations, and with the frontispiece and fenestration on the façade, George Gage made modifications to the house that reflect the architectural preferences and living requirements of the late nineteenth century. Gage was responsible for additions on the rear of the house, flanking the reverse gable central bay with Palladian window, for adding water closets, and for adding a second story porch in a Neoclassical Revival style on the south façade of the house.<sup>66</sup>

Colonial Revival and Neoclassical Revival style dwellings, like those of the Federal style, exhibit symmetry, simple Neoclassical details, and balanced fenestration on the principal elevations. The defining feature is typically “a façade dominated by full height porch with roof supported by classical columns, and the façade shows symmetrically balanced windows and a central door.”<sup>67</sup> While the style was most popular from 1895 to 1955, in the American South, Greek Revival precedents and Giant Order columns never left vogue. A key differentiation between the earlier Greek Revival style and Neoclassical Revival are the absence of a temple front pedimented roofline in favor of a low pitched roofline behind a boxed cornice. Where porches were added to earlier dwellings (like the Means Gage House), a flat or shed roof projecting from the principal roofline is common. While seventy five percent of residential examples surveyed by architectural historian Virginia McAlester exhibit Ionic or Corinthian columns, the Gage house features a simpler Tuscan colonnade more typically utilized in Colonial Revival ornament.<sup>68</sup>

Colonial Revival’s popularity in the late nineteenth century was partially derived from the style’s adaptability and from a wider cultural movement within the United States to commemorate and draw inspiration from the nation’s colonial past, which accelerated following the Centennial of 1876. Regarding the style’s use in Beaufort, Bruce Harvey notes, “other factors seemed to have encouraged the use of the Colonial Revival for southern plantation homes. In the South at the turn of the century, the descriptive terms “southern”, “classical”, and “colonial” were often used interchangeably. This blending of stylistic terms perhaps can be traced to attempts of the part of southern leaders to overcome the images of the Civil War. The appeal to “colonial” architecture which was classically derived emphasized the political, social, and economic unity of the nation. At the same time, the image of the antebellum plantation was appealing to the new wealthy industrial leaders of the North, who sought to recreate in the plantations the image of refined gentility, without the ugly associations of slavery.” Neoclassical houses of the era (of which there are eight in the City of Beaufort) were similar in proportion to Colonial Revival examples but drew more heavily on Federal and Greek Revival influences.<sup>69</sup> George Gage’s addition of a second story colonnaded porch reflect the architectural preferences of the late nineteenth century, and of the house’s location in Beaufort. The two story porch faces the Beaufort River and provides an impressive, high style façade, in keeping with the significant houses neighboring on Bay Street, but unique in its retention of Federal era details.

<sup>66</sup> Gage references a water closet and an upper porch in a letter to McQueston of Boston, 14 October 1888 (Gage Papers, Box 2.)

<sup>67</sup> McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses*, 435.

<sup>68</sup> McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses*, 435-436.

<sup>69</sup> Harvey, et al, *Beaufort County Above Ground Survey*, Section III, 12-13.

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Colonial and Neoclassical Revival took hold in Beaufort in the wake of remodeling following the catastrophic Hurricane of 1893 that decimated the surrounding sea islands. There are three extant houses that were constructed in the Neoclassical Revival style in Beaufort: the Joseph Thomas house, 606 Bay Street, 1909, which is a grand Italian Renaissance inspired villa of cast stone; 1305 Bay Street, constructed in 1909 with a simple square massing, hipped roof, one story porch topped with a neoclassical balustrade at the roof line, and square sidelights around the entry door; and the Keserling house at 1705 Bay Street, built in 1910 with a T plan, one story wrap around porch, wide port cochere on the west faced, and nine over one pane windows. Other houses in Beaufort were updated in the late nineteenth century to Victorian, Colonial Revival, and to a lesser degree, Neoclassical Revival styles of the day, through the addition of commercially milled porch details, bay windows, Victorian style accents, and larger pane modern windows (which can be seen at the Cuthbert House in next door to the east). The Means Gage House retained its earlier Federal details such as fenestration, exterior siding, massing, and interior elements, while also reflecting the design preferences of one of its most important occupants, George Gage, through the addition of the Neoclassical Revival double portico on the façade in the late nineteenth century.<sup>70</sup> The Means-Gage house has sufficient integrity to articulate the original era of construction, and also to convey Gage's time in the house. Few modifications have been made in the original mass of the house, on the interior or exterior, since Gage's occupancy.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

1207 Bay Street is located in Beaufort, South Carolina. Beaufort is the second oldest town in South Carolina and was laid out on a regular grid during the Proprietary area on a low bluff near Port Royal.<sup>71</sup> The lot, which has a south frontage of one hundred feet, faces the Beaufort River. The property boundaries have remained intact since they were laid out in 1770, and 1207 Bay Street has remained a single family residence. The house lies in the Bluff neighborhood, which is bounded by Hamar, Harrington, and Prince Streets, and the Beaufort River.<sup>72</sup>

1207 Bay Street has been documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1979. It is situated in the City of Beaufort National Historic Landmark District, which is comprised of 304 acres and 170 contributing buildings and is considered a "significant contributing property by the City of Beaufort."<sup>73</sup>

The house was built circa 1790 possibly by John Bull (died 1798), and acquired by Robert Means (March 24, 1774-1832), a merchant from Boston who settled in Beaufort in the post-Revolutionary War era, as his residence.<sup>74</sup> Means was the son of John and Isabella Harper Means. He married Mary Hutson Barnwell (1781-1851), the eldest daughter of Revolutionary War hero General John Barnwell (1774-1832). The couple had twelve children, most of whom

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<sup>70</sup> Historic Beaufort National Register, 11-12.

<sup>71</sup> Historic Beaufort National Register, pg. 2

<sup>72</sup> Historic Beaufort National Register Expansion, Section 7, pg. 3.

<sup>73</sup> Historic Beaufort National Register 2.

<sup>74</sup> "Bull Family of South Carolina", 89; Means House, Beaufort Historic Site Survey.

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survived to adulthood; Isabella married Dr. DeSaussure, son of Chancellor Henry William DeSaussure, who was a friend of President Washington and became the first director of the United States Mint. He issued the first gold Eagle dollars. Mary married Dr. Henry Middleton Fuller, he became a physician and practiced in Beaufort. Other Means' women married into prominent Beaufort families.<sup>75</sup>

Means became a wealthy planter and served as intendent of Beaufort. When the original Act of Incorporation for the City of Beaufort came up for renewal in 1816, a powerful group of planters and property owners supported the re-incorporation led by outgoing intendant William Robertson and incoming intendant of Beaufort Robert Means.<sup>76</sup> Incorporation opponents stated that they enacted taxes in order to spend money, but Means was able to stabilize the situation and “helped quell the effort to eliminate the municipal government of Beaufort.”<sup>77</sup>

Means was appointed “by Beaufort inhabitants” in 1820 to be chair of the Corresponding Committee of Charleston, to speak against recent tariffs in Congress, which they determined to be detrimental to southern agriculture and shipping interests.<sup>78</sup> In 1821 as intendent, Means petitioned the state legislature to continue West Street to the river. Opening the street, “would enable the town to tear down the derelict house on lot 6, which was a nuisance and fire hazard ‘inhabited frequently by low white people and Negroes who in their carelessness disturb the peace of the neighborhood.’”<sup>79</sup> That year he was also involved in a petition to construct a pest house at Port Royal Harbor, on behalf of the town government of Beaufort.<sup>80</sup>

Means was a major stakeholder in the State Act to Incorporate the Bank of South Carolina and to open a Beaufort office.<sup>81</sup> He became a substantial planter, owning 2,240 acres of land and 180 enslaved people in St. Helena Parish in 1825.<sup>82</sup> In 1832 Robert Means gave permission to Reverend George Moore and John Coburn to establish an island mission, on his Parris Island cotton plantation. Allowing all the slaves on the island to gather for religious services in a large frame building on Mean’s plantation<sup>83</sup>. His wife was part of the original Ladies Benevolent Society of the Beaufort district for the “purpose of establishing a society for the relief of distressed and destitute female children”.<sup>84</sup> He grew cotton and sugar on his plantations and in 1830, his sugar crop received the premium from the Beaufort Agricultural Society for best crop.<sup>85</sup>

<sup>75</sup> Findagrave.com, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/84868072/robert-means>. Accessed 31 August 2019.

<sup>76</sup> The History of Beaufort County Volume 1, 1514 -1861 Lawrence S. Rowland Alexander Moore George C. Rogers, Jr.

<sup>77</sup> Helsley, *A Guide to Historic Beaufort South Carolina*, 75; Rogers et al, *History of Beaufort, Volume 1*, 263.

<sup>78</sup> *Charleston Courier*, 9 October 1820.

<sup>79</sup> Helsley, *A Guide to Historic Beaufort South Carolina*, 71.

<sup>80</sup> SCDAH, “Petitions to the General Assembly,” item 721, 1821.

<sup>81</sup> *Charleston City Gazette*, 4 January 1828.

<sup>82</sup> South Carolina Department of Archives and History, “Tax Return”, 10 March 1825.

<sup>83</sup> Rogers and Rowland, *The History of Beaufort County Volume 1, 1514 -1861*, 356.

<sup>84</sup> The History of Beaufort County Volume 1, 1514 -1861 Lawrence S. Rowland Alexander Moore George C. Rogers, Jr.

<sup>85</sup> *Charleston Courier*, 9 January 1830.

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Robert Means died in 1832 and was buried at St. Helena Episcopal Church in Beaufort. He was eulogized, "the death of Mr. Means is a serious loss to the community. He was an eminently upright, active, and useful citizen. Mrs. Means was a Christian; decidedly and intelligently pious; in his religious history- which commenced by public profession four and twenty years ago- there was exemplified, to no slight degree, the truth and power of the striking Scripture sentiment, 'I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the son of god, who love me and gave himself to me.'"<sup>86</sup> The Means family occupied the home until the start of the Civil War, when it was then used as an officer's barracks during the Union occupation of Beaufort. During the Union occupation the house was bought in the Direct Tax sale in the late 1860's, the buyer is not known.<sup>87</sup>

Col. James P. Low occupied the house during the American Civil War, during which time photos were taken that show Low and his family in front of the house by the arcaded basement. Low was born in Beverly, Massachusetts and studied at Boston Latin School, Harvard University, and Pulsifer's Engineering Office in Boston. President Lincoln granted him a commission as captain of volunteer forces for the Union Army in 1862 and he was later elevated to Lt. Colonel. He served on the staff of General Rufus Saxton in South Carolina. After the war he left the state to take a position as chief engineer of the Blue Ridge Railroad.<sup>88</sup>

In addition to his political career and federal appointments, George Gage was also involved in the lumber industry in Beaufort. Gage's Mill, located on a bluff on the west side of Beaufort Bay at the current site of the Beaufort Memorial Hospital, capitalized on the burgeoning timber industry and need for lumber along the South Carolina coast in the rebuilding efforts and building boom during Reconstruction. In winter of 1876, he and two other mill owners supplied lumber for fourteen ships constructed at Port Royal Navy Yard, the largest fleet in Port Royal sound since the war.<sup>89</sup> Gage's Mill produced planed and seasoned planks, structural timbers, and weatherboard siding.<sup>90</sup> Gage's largest client was John McQueston and Company of Boston, whom he sent shipments of yellow pine by ship throughout the 1880s.<sup>91</sup> Gage sourced pine timber from the Salkehatchie area of Colleton County (north of Beaufort) and Branchville (Orangeburg County) and floating the materials to his mill site.<sup>92</sup>

<sup>86</sup> *Charleston Courier*, 19 December 1819.

<sup>87</sup> Helsley, *A Guide to Historic Beaufort South Carolina*, 75. Early deeds for Beaufort County do not survive.

<sup>88</sup> Low obituary linked to Findagrave.com, [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18388255/james-p\\_-low#view-photo=89220978](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/18388255/james-p_-low#view-photo=89220978)

Accessed 25 August 2019.

<sup>89</sup> Rowland, *History of Beaufort County Vol. 2*, 510, 537.

<sup>90</sup> Gage papers, Box 2, letter to Town Marshal Joseph Pinckney, 22 July 1884; Letter to William Weymouth, 1 October 1884.

<sup>91</sup> Gage papers, Box 2 contains dozens of letters to McQueston pertaining to material orders and shipping arrangements.

<sup>92</sup> Gage papers, Box 2, letter of McQueston, 23 October 1885; letter to JH Richter, Branchville, 19 December 1885. Gage placed an order for 120,000 feet of timber from F and H Boyan near Salkehatchie Bridge in a 20 June 1887 letter.

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Like most smaller mill operations along the South Carolina coast, Gage's Mill relied heavily on cooperative water levels both to power the mill and to float materials to the mill for processing, leaving them at the mercy of weather and drought patterns. Gage wrote in 1884 of a particularly hard year in the mill business: "From September through march of this year has been a hard time for me, at first because of the low price of lumber and then for one year the water was so low in the docks from which the lumber is brought to market that no mill depending upon them could do anything last February. But we hope it will be alright after the elections. Money is very scarce here just now."<sup>93</sup>

Unfortunately, Gage's Mill struggled in the economic downturn in the 1880s and because of a heavy reliance the ability to float timber to the mill for production, whereas larger new mills in other cities were constructed deep water wharves. Gage purchased timber to mill into lumber on credit and often borrowed from family members (including a cousin Sally, his mother, and extended cousins, to put towards his business and the mortgage on the 1207 Bay Street.<sup>94</sup> Gage was unable to pay back a loan to his cousin that same year, noting "'I see no way of getting money for it, and other claims amount to \$1000 or more, and I can buy timber now but there is no demand for lumber at the north, and so I am doing nothing, and my creditors are all wanting their money because I have nothing to do to own it . . . and I with \$2500 with a mortgage with this house for security; it is worth from \$5000 to 6000 and I keep it insured."<sup>95</sup>

From 1919 to 1928, the house was seasonally occupied by Major Edwin Denby, "Beaufort County's most notable hero in the post World War One era, who had a remarkable career in and out of the Marine Corps."<sup>96</sup> Denby was the Secretary of the Navy from 1921 until his resignation in 1924 during the Teapot Dome Scandal, a national scandal that exposed bribery and illegal public land leasing at the federal level; Denby's political career became collateral damage of the scandal fallout, and he left Beaufort shortly after to return to Detroit, where he died in 1929.

Major Edwin Denby was educated at the University of Michigan School of Law and passed the bar in that state, and then served as the president of the Detroit Board of Trade in 1904 before being elected to U.S. Congress. He served in the Spanish-American War and World War I. Denby was a member of the U.S. House of Representative from Michigan's 1st district March 4, 1905 to March 3, 1911. In 1917 he enlisted as a private in the United States Marine Corps when the U.S. entered World War I. Denby was one of the first recruits trained on Parris Island and received an officer commission. He was discharged in 1919 with the rank of Major and "was so charmed with Beaufort that he bought the house on Bay Street that had long been the home of George Gage and his children." He chose to purchase a second home in Beaufort during a time of economic downturn precipitated by decreased military activity after WWI, and the widespread failure of Sea Island cotton after the boll weevil infestations of 1911.<sup>97</sup>

<sup>93</sup> Gage papers, box 1, letter to Gage's nephew, 6 September 1884.

<sup>94</sup> Gage papers, Box 2, letter to Frances Gage, 8 August 1884.

<sup>95</sup> 2 Gage papers, Box 2, letter to "Cousin Sally," 6 October 1884.

<sup>96</sup> Rowland, *History of Beaufort County*, Vol. 3, 205.

<sup>97</sup> Rowland, *History of Beaufort County*, Vol. 3, 205-206.



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Denby was a well-loved citizen during his seasonal time in Beaufort. For example, when General Joseph Henry Pendleton visited Beaufort to meet with the business men of the town and the military officers of Parris Island, Denby spoke following the mayor, and “was greeted by a storm of applause, when the speaker of the evening announced him as Beaufort’s own citizen, and declared the Beaufort would keep him as long as his native city, Detroit, could spare him.” Denby spoke of his pleasant experience in the town while a young Marine, and urged the community to support the young Marine veterans returning home after World War One; “it was easy to make heroes of the men when the fighting was going on but now it is over and there will always be a large number of men to visit Beaufort” and he wanted the town’s citizens to be welcoming and supportive.<sup>98</sup>

Denby served as Secretary of the Navy for President Harding and President Coolidge from March 1, 1921 until March 10, 1924, when he resigned his position amidst Teapot Dome Scandal.<sup>99</sup> President Harding transferred control of the naval oil reserves in Teapot Dome, Wyoming and Elk Hills California from the Navy Department to the department of the Interior in 1921 and the following year, Albert Fall (Secretary of the Interior) leased the fields to a private oil businessman without a competitive bidding process. In an ensuing investigation, Fall was indicted for bribery and conspiracy when it came to light that he had personally accepted large amounts of money from the oil field lessees. Denby was not charged, and the *New York Tribune* noted that “stupidity is the high crime and misdemeanor which the Senate accuses Mr. Denby, and the only one.” However, because he was Secretary of the Navy when the initial field transfer was made, Denby’s political reputation was clouded.<sup>100</sup>

In the aftermath of the scandal, Democrat and Republican leaders voted unanimously to repudiate Harding, Fall, and Denby’s policy of allowing the transfer of the naval oil reserves from the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Interior, and shortly after, several politicians began to call on the president to obtain Denby’s resignation. While “there were many who defended Denby or who doubted the wisdom of forcing him to retire, nevertheless the senators voted 47 to 34 to call for his resignation.”<sup>101</sup> Historian Lawrence Rowland notes that, “but Beaufortians knew he was a scapegoat.” The gazette said, “we are sorry to see Mr. Denby making himself the ‘goat’ in the oil scandals in Washington . . . whatever his faults, Mr. Denby is entirely too good to be so used.”<sup>102</sup>

Denby remained in Beaufort after the scandal, but left to move back to Detroit when the Beaufort Bank, which he was heavily invested in, failed in 1926 with continued cotton failure, bankrupting several citizens in the fallout. The failure was described as “a catastrophic event in Beaufort County’s businesses life. It was the end of the business and commercial legacy of Reconstruction and the local beginning of the Great Depression.” Denby returned only once to

<sup>98</sup> *News and Courier*, 24 February 1919.

<sup>99</sup> Helsley, *A Guide to Historic Beaufort South Carolina*, 75.

<sup>100</sup> Denby Papers finding aid, <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/b/bhlead/umich-bhl-851116?view=text>. Accessed 31 August 2019.

<sup>101</sup> Bates, “Teapot Dome Scandal and the Election of 1924”, 310.

<sup>102</sup> Rowland, *History of Beaufort County*, Vol. 3, 206.



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Beaufort and died February 8, 1929 in Michigan.<sup>103</sup> Detroit's Edwin C. Denby High School is named in his honor, as is the Denby Center for Children and Family Services, which the Salvation Army opened in Detroit in 1930 to provide housing and treatment for abused and neglected children.

The Lyon family owned the house through the late 1928 and through the 1930s.

In 1943, Dr. Charles Luther purchased the house. He was a pharmacist in Beaufort for many years. Dr. Luther was a driving force and on the bridge commission for the construction of the Lady's Island Bridge in 1923. Construction for the bridge began in 1925. The estimated cost for the bridge was \$300,000. In 1933 Dr. Luther was in a group of citizens who applied to the Civil Works Administration and the Duke Foundation for funds to build a hospital. In 1935 the General Assembly created a board of regents of the Beaufort County Hospital Association to advance the project. Dr. Luther was chairman of the board of regents. Finally, on May 1, 1944, the Beaufort County Hospital had a grand opening ceremony. The Luther family tree traces their ancestors back to Martin Luther.<sup>104</sup> His daughter Angie Luther Sammons lived in the home and was a close friend of the next owner, Mrs. Cora Lee Bull, who purchased the home in 1970. During this time the house was converted into 4 different apartments.

United States Environmental Science Services Administration Rear Admiral John Carraway Bull and his wife Coralee Kitchings, who served as Congressman Mendel Rivers' assistant, lived in the home from 1970 until 1995. After Coralee's death, her son, Dr. John Bull of Phoenix, Arizona, retained ownership. Dr. and Mrs. Richard Ceips purchased the home in 1995 turning the home back into a single-family residence. Dr. Ceips died in 2006.

In 2009 Catherine Sue Crawford Ceips married Wallace Berry Scarborough from Charleston. In 2016 -2018 Catherine and Wallace Scarborough completed a total historic renovation of the home. Wallace was the Grandson of Yancy Wilcox Scarborough founder of Atlantic Coast Life Insurance Company in 1925 and served in the SC legislature as a member of the House. Wallace was the Son of Robert Bowman Scarborough who was a member of the SC legislature serving as both a Representative and Senator. The bridge from Charleston to James Island is named in his honor. Wallace served in the House of Representatives from 2000 to 2008 and retired as President and CEO of Atlantic Coast Life Insurance Company. Catherine Sue Crawford was the daughter of Sidney and Virginia Crawford of Moncks Corner. Catherine entered politics as the Beaufort coordinator for US Representative Floyd Spence, SC 2<sup>nd</sup> congressional district, Chairman of the Armed Services. Catherine Served in the SC House of Representatives from 2002 to 2007. She served in the South Carolina Senate from 2007 to 2008. She was the 10<sup>th</sup> female Senator in the history of South Carolina. Wallace and Catherine, during their time in the general assembly, secured the funding to widen a 21-mile stretch of highway 17 from 2-lane highway to a 4-lane highway. This section of hwy-17 from Beaufort to Charleston was dubbed

<sup>103</sup> Rowland, *History of Beaufort County*, Vol. 3, 239-240.

<sup>104</sup> Old Homes & Churches of Beaufort County, SC by Mary Kendall Hilton

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“the most dangerous stretch of road in America” in the early 2000’s.<sup>105</sup> Ceips authored the first anti-human trafficking bill passed in a State Legislature in 2007.

**Potential for archeology:**

In the 1990s, an archeological dig of one of the two brick lined privies was overseen by the State Archeologist Chester DePratter, which uncovered many important artifacts.<sup>106</sup> The excavation yielded turtle bones (probably from food consumption), 19<sup>th</sup> century dominos, mocha ware, and various China and pottery fragments, including colonoware, which are displayed in the Means-Gage house by the current owners, Catherine Ceips Scarborough and Wallace Scarborough. Depratter stated, “archeologists don’t often get to dig privy features like this at all. One interesting aspect of this is the deposit they dug up was loaded with food bones. One of the things we’ll be able to do when we’re done is determine the diet of 1800s Beaufort.”<sup>107</sup>

Depratter hoped to draw comparisons between the artifacts and material culture from Means’ plantation at Parris Island and the Means-Gage house site. Such a comparison had “never been done before, as far as we can tell”, according to DePratter, and few similar privies had been dug in South Carolina to date. The privy is 9.5 long by 4.5 wide by 6 deep with brick walls that show wear from a previous use before the privy construction.<sup>108</sup> To date, the archeological report of the findings has not been completed.<sup>109</sup> There is also additional potential for archeology, with a second privy in the rear of the lot, believed to be older than the first, which is yet to be excavated.

During the 2016-2017 Scarborough renovation, eighteen inches of earth was excavated in the raised basement area, revealing a water cistern, which was left exposed and incorporated into the design of the ground floor spa. During the renovation it was discovered that the two rooms on the west side of the house are slightly askew, which may point these rooms being part of an earlier structure on the property. The excavated cistern seems to be in alignment with these two rooms as further evidence of an older structure. Cisterns, or rainwater catchment or storage reservoirs, were common in antebellum residential buildings before the advent of public, piped water supplies. Extant examples are typically found at affluent residences and were filled via intricate drainage systems that channeled rain water from the roof systems of the house into a sheltered, below grade cistern to provide a clean, constant water supply.<sup>110</sup>

To date, there has been no comprehensive study of cistern construction and incidence for

<sup>105</sup> Biographical information provided by Wallace Scarborough and Catherine Ceips Scarborough.

<sup>106</sup> Dr. DePratter specializes in coastal South Carolina and Georgia anthropology and archeology. He discovered the French settlement Charlesfort (today Parris Island) and has excavated numerous sites in Beaufort. DePratter is a research professor in the archeology department at the University of South Carolina. <https://santa-elena.org/chester-depratter-phd/>

<sup>107</sup> Undated clipping provide by Wallace Scarborough, “Privy offers glimpse into past,” *Beaufort Gazette*.

<sup>108</sup> “Privy offers glimpse into past,” *Beaufort Gazette*.

<sup>109</sup> Christina Butler attempted to contact Dr. Depratter in August 2019 to enquire about the state of the archeological notes and findings from the privy dig at 1207 Bay Street, but was unable to reach him.

<sup>110</sup> McKee, *Domestic Cisterns in Charleston, South Carolina*, ii.

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Beaufort, but a Charleston survey indicates that most were constructed out of wood or masonry (the latter being more common for early nineteenth century examples at elite residences) and were either subterranean, semi-subterranean, or attic level. Subterranean examples were typically lined with a stucco render.<sup>111</sup> The cistern at the Means-Gage house is a subterranean example located in the raise basement area, and is rectangular in plan. It is constructed of masonry, and has a historic stucco render lining the inner walls. Further study could indicate how representative or unique the cistern is, and a mortar analysis might provide information about the approximate date of construction.

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<sup>111</sup> Ibid, 53-54.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☒ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

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**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State agency  
☐ Federal agency  
☐ Local government  
☐ University  
☐ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acres of Property** 1.3 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 32.432769 | Longitude: -80.675822 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is bounded on the north by North Street, on the south by Bay Street, on the west by the "Tabby Manse" house, and on the east by the Cuthbert House.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries were selected to correspond with existing property lines and tax record map information. The boundaries encompass the Means house, adjacent garden, and two privy sites.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Christina R. Butler  
organization: Butler Preservation L.C.  
street & number: 6 Hampden Ct.  
city or town: Charleston state: SC zip code: 29403  
e-mail: c.rae.butler@gmail.com  
telephone: 843-469-9623  
date: 30 December 2019

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Owner Information** (if there are multiple owners, or if there are multiple parcels included within the nomination boundary that are under separate ownership, please include the names of ALL owners)

**Owner's Name (individual, organization, corporation, etc.):** Hon. Wallace B. Scarborough and Hon. Catherine C. Scarborough

**Name of Contact Person (if different from above):**

**Mailing Address:** 1207 Bay Street. Beaufort, SC 29902

**Telephone:** 843-906-6957

**E-mail address (if available):** wbs224488@gmail.com

### Photographs

Means-Gage House

Beaufort County, SC

Name of Property

County and State

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Means-Gage House

City or Vicinity: Beaufort

County: Beaufort State: South Carolina

Photographer: Wallace B. Scaborough/ Christina R. Butler

Date Photographed: June 2018- March 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1 of 64:  | Front/South elevation of House, facing north                            |
| 2 of 64:  | Front/ South elevation of house in perspective, facing northeast        |
| 3 of 64:  | Front door, facing north  |
| 4 of 64:  | Side/East elevation, showing brick arcaded foundation, facing northwest |
| 5 of 64:  | Side/West elevation, showing side protruding bays, facing northeast     |
| 6 of 64:  | Rear/ North elevation of House, facing south                            |
| 7 of 64:  | Rear/north elevation with Palladian window, facing south                |
| 8 of 64:  | Raised basement, facing east  |
| 9 of 64:  | Raised basement, facing south   |
| 10 of 64: | Raised basement, facing west  |
| 11 of 64: | Basement cistern  |
| 12 of 64: | Basement cistern facing east  |
| 13 of 64: | Basement cistern facing north   |
| 14 of 64: | Basement cistern from above/ground level, facing east                   |
| 15 of 64: | Basement cistern from inside/subgrade, facing north                     |
| 16 of 64: | Basement steps to first floor from basement, facing north               |
| 17 of 64: | basement steps from first floor, facing southwest, showing plaster      |
| 18 of 64: | Basement steps from basement, facing north                              |
| 19 of 64: | Basement steps from first floor, facing south                           |
| 20 of 64: | Rear foyer, facing east   |
| 21 of 64: | Rear foyer, facing west   |
| 22 of 64: | Former exterior wall in rear den/foyer, facing west toward kitchen      |



**Means-Gage House**

**Beaufort County, SC**

Name of Property

County and State

- 23 of 64: Kitchen in formerly detached outbuilding, facing west
- 24 of 64: Den with original fireplace, facing south
- 25 of 64: Den, facing west
- 26 of 64: Dining room, facing east
- 27 of 64: Dining room, facing north
- 28 of 64: Dining room, facing south
- 29 of 64: Dining room, facing west
- 30 of 64: Dining room tassel molding, facing northeast
- 31 of 64: Tassel molding in cornice, facing east
- 32 of 64: First floor study, facing east
- 33 of 64: First floor study, facing west
- 34 of 64: First floor office, facing east
- 35 of 64: First floor office, facing west
- 36 of 64: First floor drawing room, facing north
- 37 of 64: Drawing room, facing south
- 38 of 64: Drawing room, facing east
- 39 of 64: Drawing room, facing west
- 40 of 64: Drawing room mantel, facing north
- 41 of 64: Composition and carving on Drawing room mantel, facing north
- 42 of 64: Urns and swags on Drawing room mantel, facing north
- 43 of 64: Drawing room carved chair rail, facing east
- 44 of 64: Drawing room cornice, facing west
- 45 of 64: Drawing room cypress panel door to office, facing north
- 46 of 64: Drawing room mantel, swags in detail, facing north
- 47 of 64: Entry foyer facing south
- 48 of 64: Entry foyer and stairs, facing north
- 49 of 64: Stair skirt board detail
- 50 of 64: Second floor landing, looking north to smoking room
- 51 of 64: Smoking room facing west
- 52 of 64: Smoking room facing north toward Palladian window
- 53 of 64: Smoking room facing east
- 54 of 64: Smoking room facing south
- 55 of 64: Second floor guest bedroom facing north
- 56 of 64: Second floor guest bedroom facing south
- 57 of 64: Second floor guest bedroom facing west
- 58 of 64: Corning in guest bedroom, facing northeast
- 59 of 64: Second floor master bedroom facing east
- 60 of 64: Second floor master bedroom facing north
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- 62 of 64: Rear yard, facing north
- 63 of 64: Rear yard, facing south
- 64 of 64: Privy site in rear yard, facing east

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Figure 1 of 12: Front of house facing north, 1865 (Owner's collection)

Means-Gage House

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Figure 2 of 12: Captain Lowe in front of house, 1865 (Library of Congress)  
Figure 3 of 12: George Gage and family in parlor, circa 1880 (Owner's collection)  
Figure 4 of 12: *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1899* showing footprint of house and two story porch  
Figure 5 of 12: *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1905* showing footprint of house  
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Figure 7 of 12: Edwin Denby (Library of Congress)  
Figure 8 of 12: Front of house facing north, 1973 (Historic American Buildings Survey SC-459)  
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Figure 10 of 12: Mocha ware and porcelain bowls recovered from privy excavation  
Figure 11 of 12: Pitchers and bowls recovered from privy excavation  
Figure 12 of 12: Rear elevation showing additions, Historic American Buildings Survey

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.





# Beaufort County

GIS Mapping Site

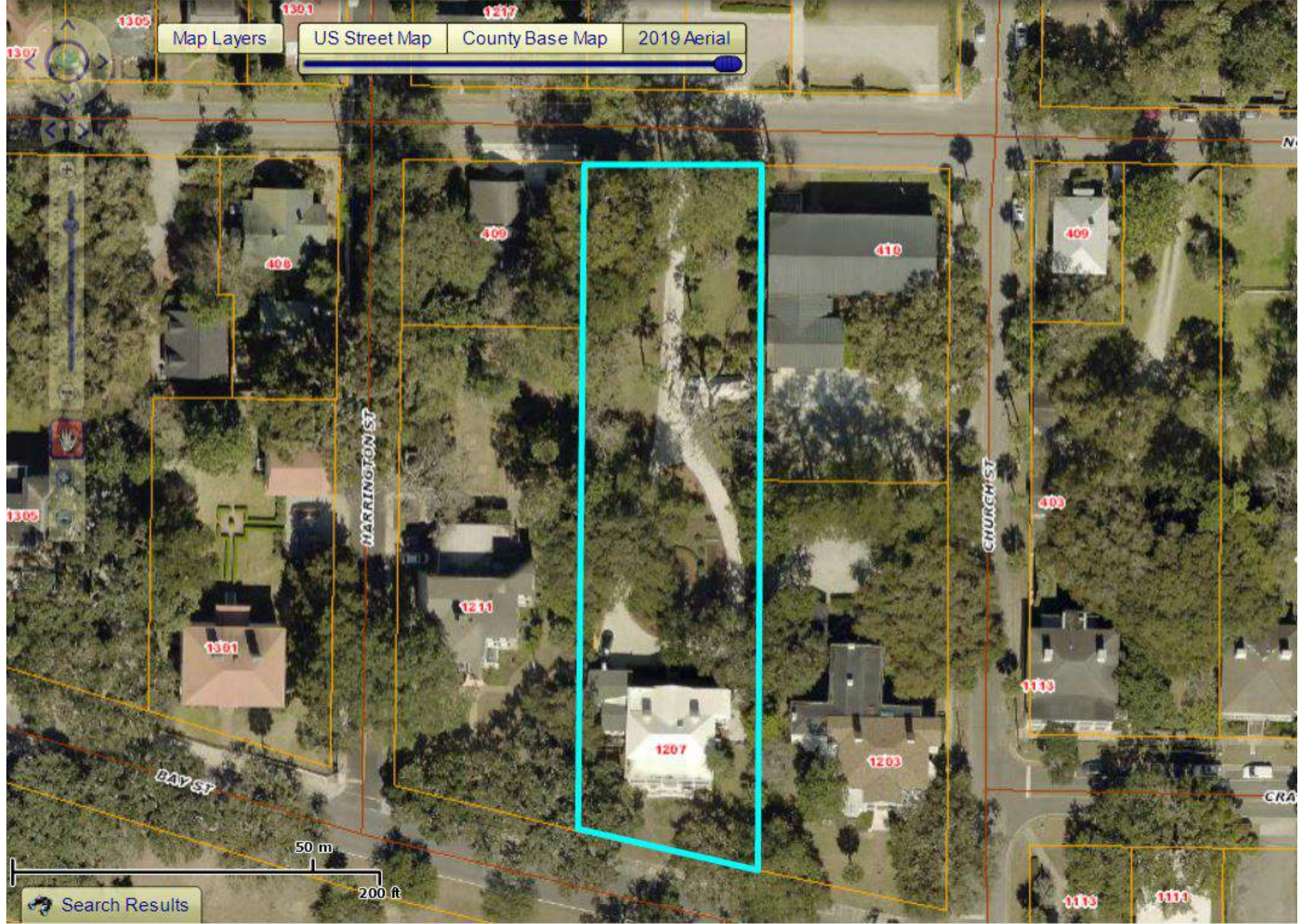


Map Layers

US Street Map

County Base Map

2019 Aerial



50 m

200 ft



Search Results



# Means-Gage House

Beaufort, Beaufort County



Google Earth

©2019 Google



# Means-Gage House

Beaufort, Beaufort County

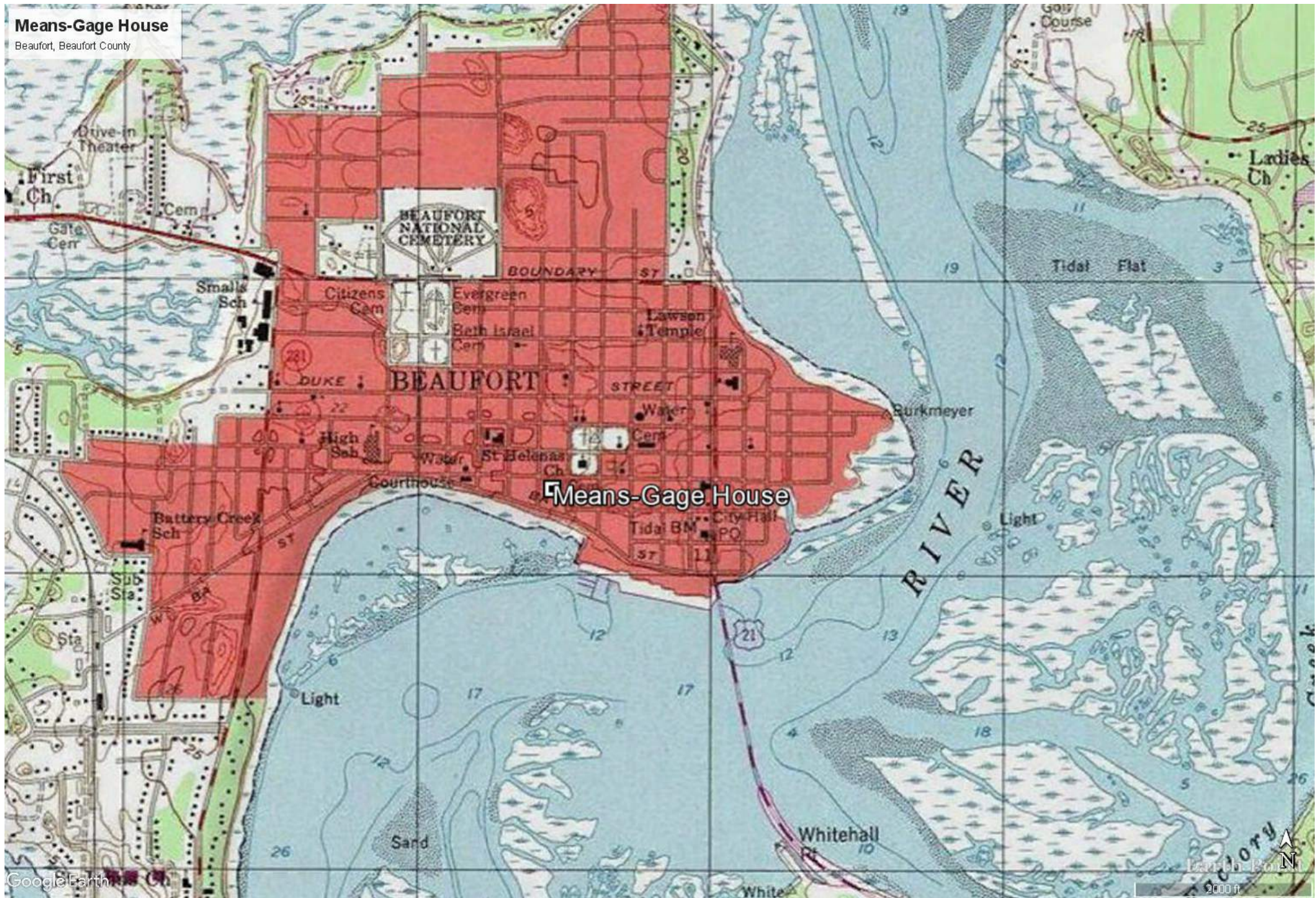
Means-Gage House





# Means-Gage House

Beaufort, Beaufort County



























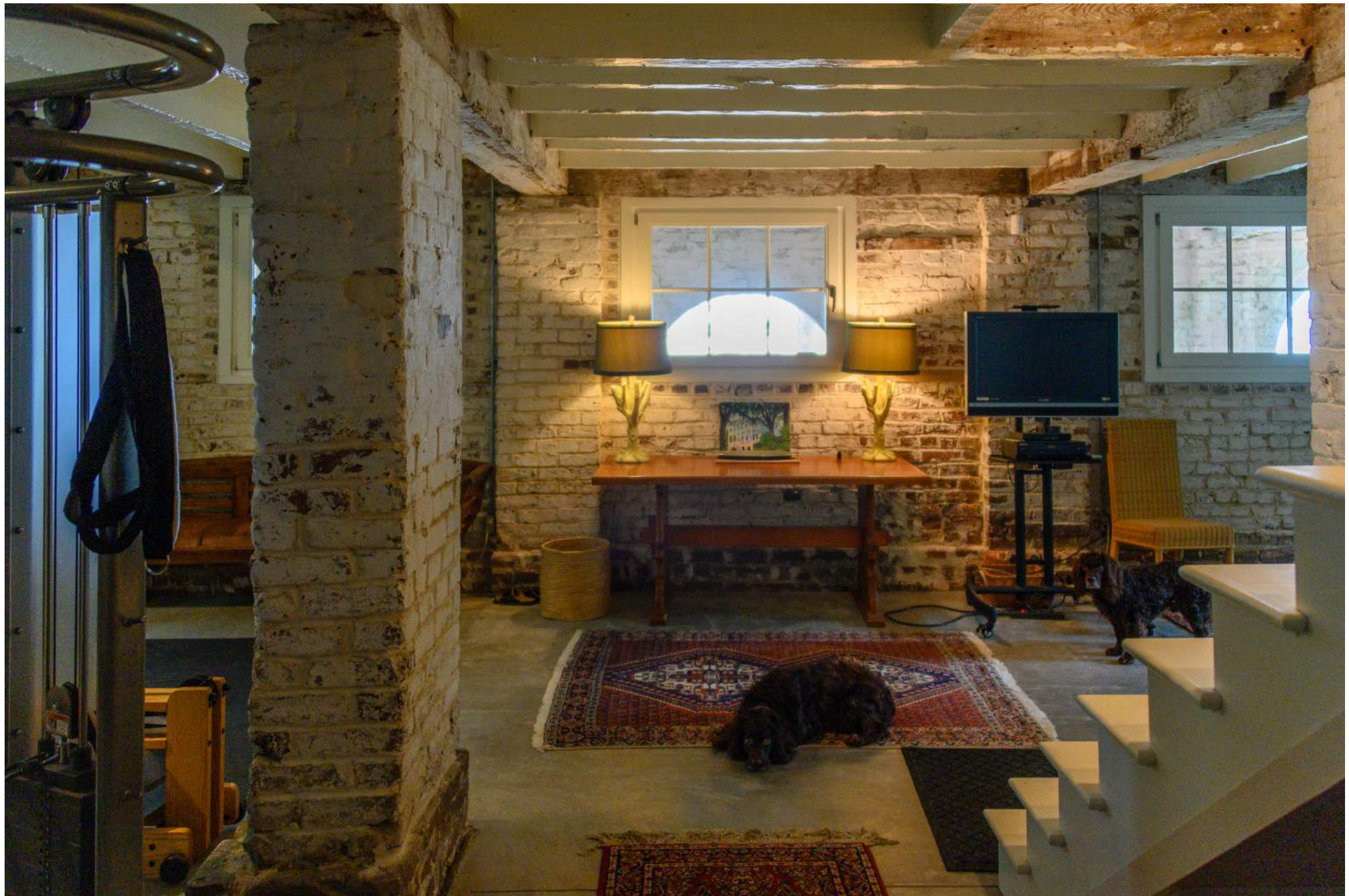








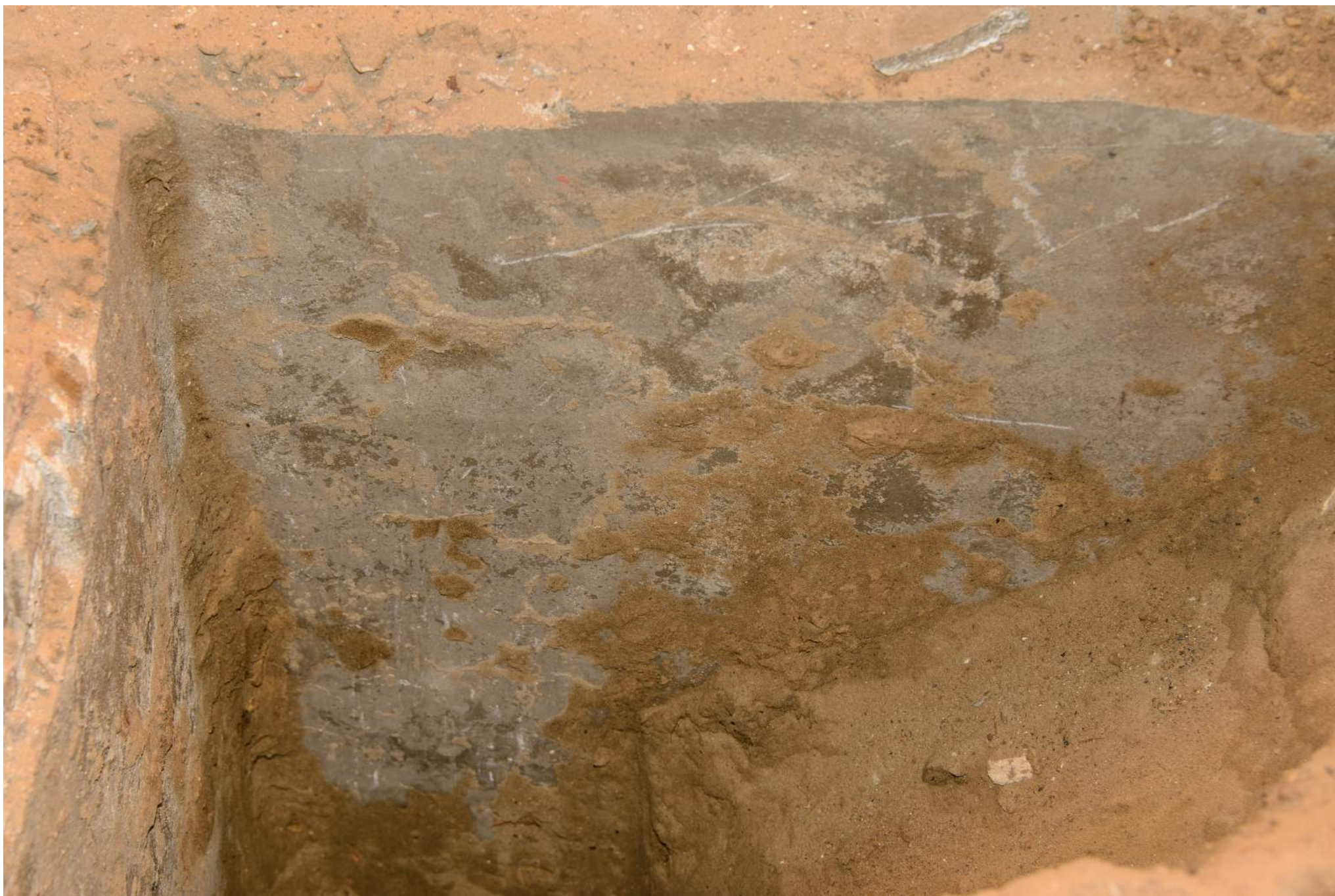


























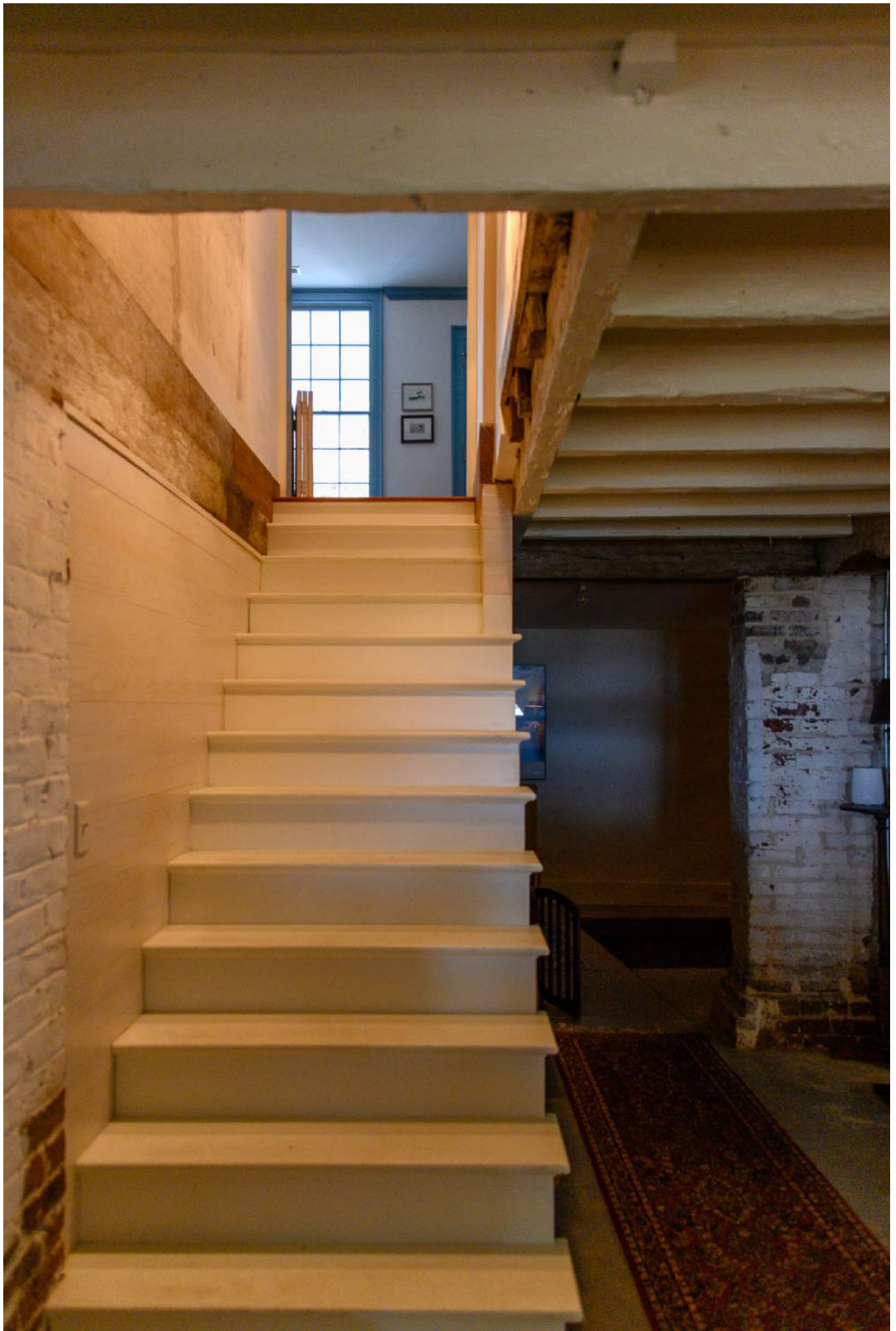












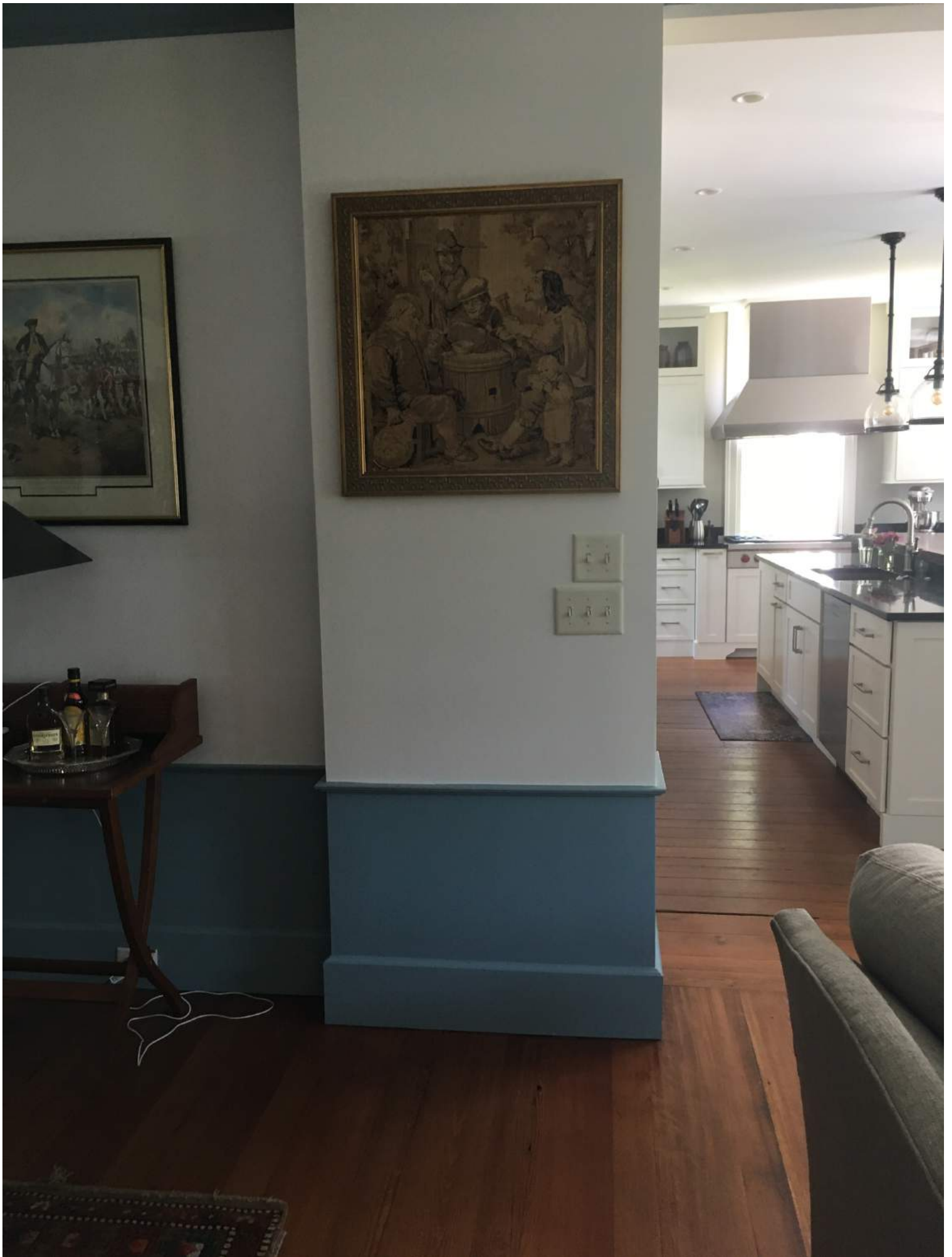


































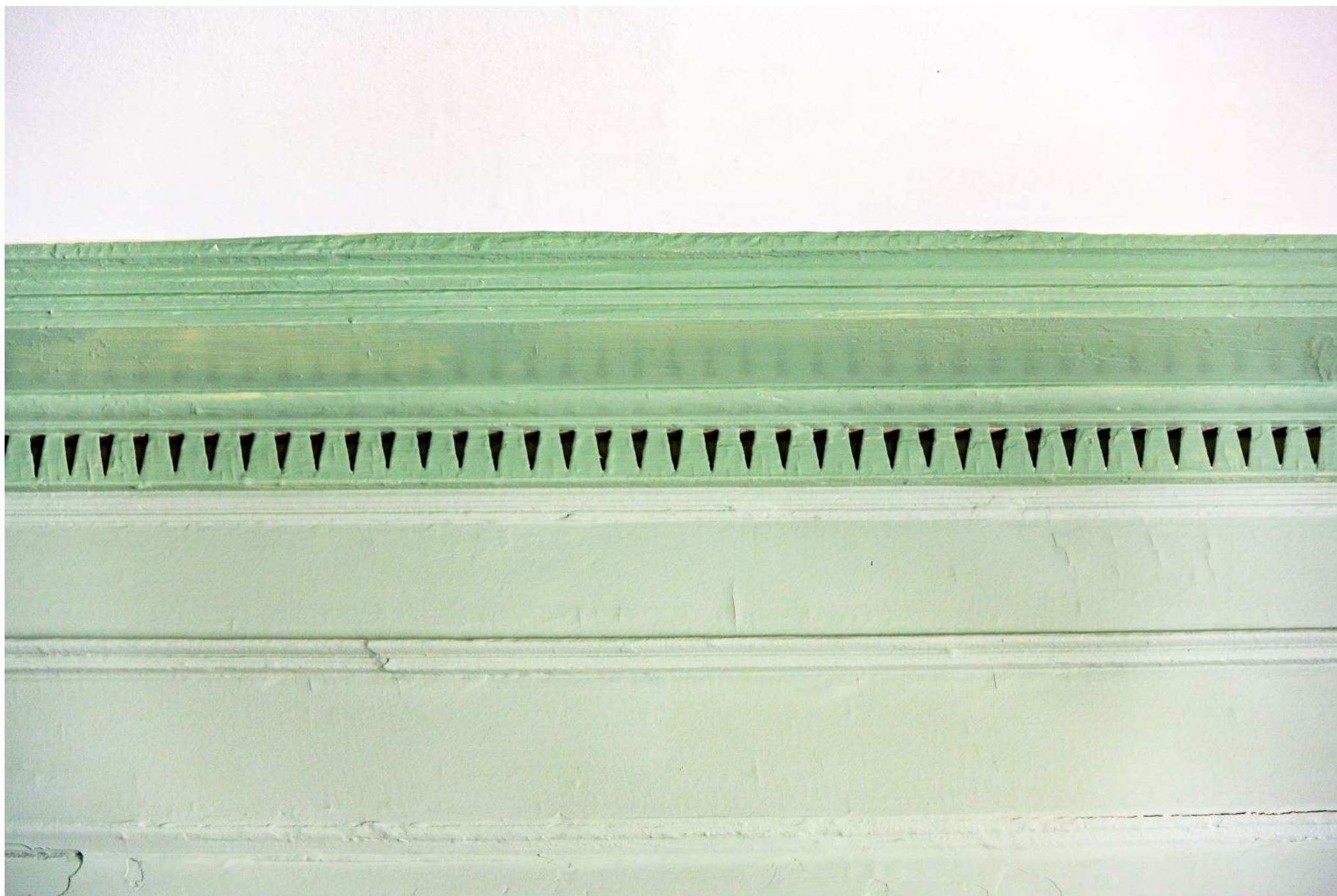






















































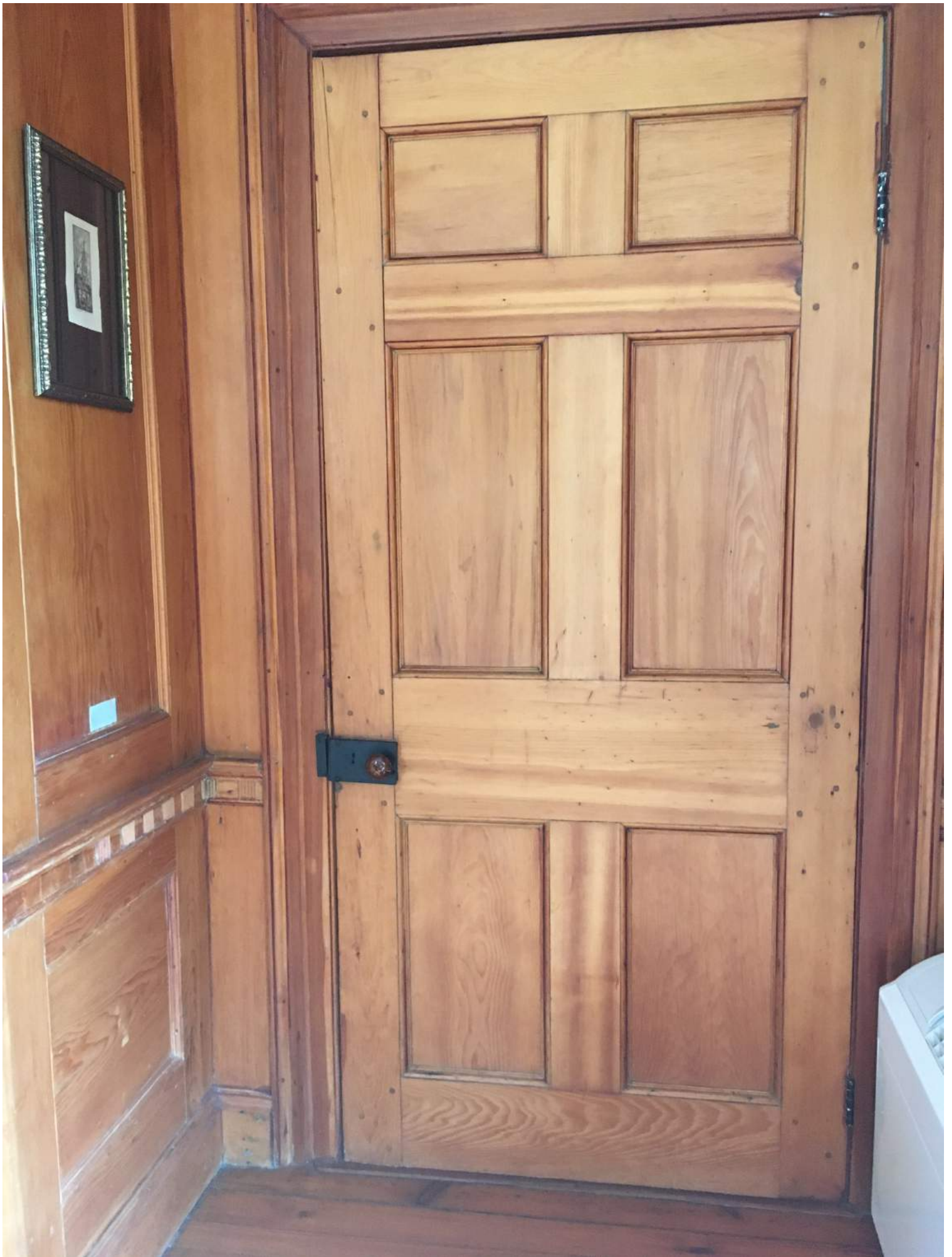






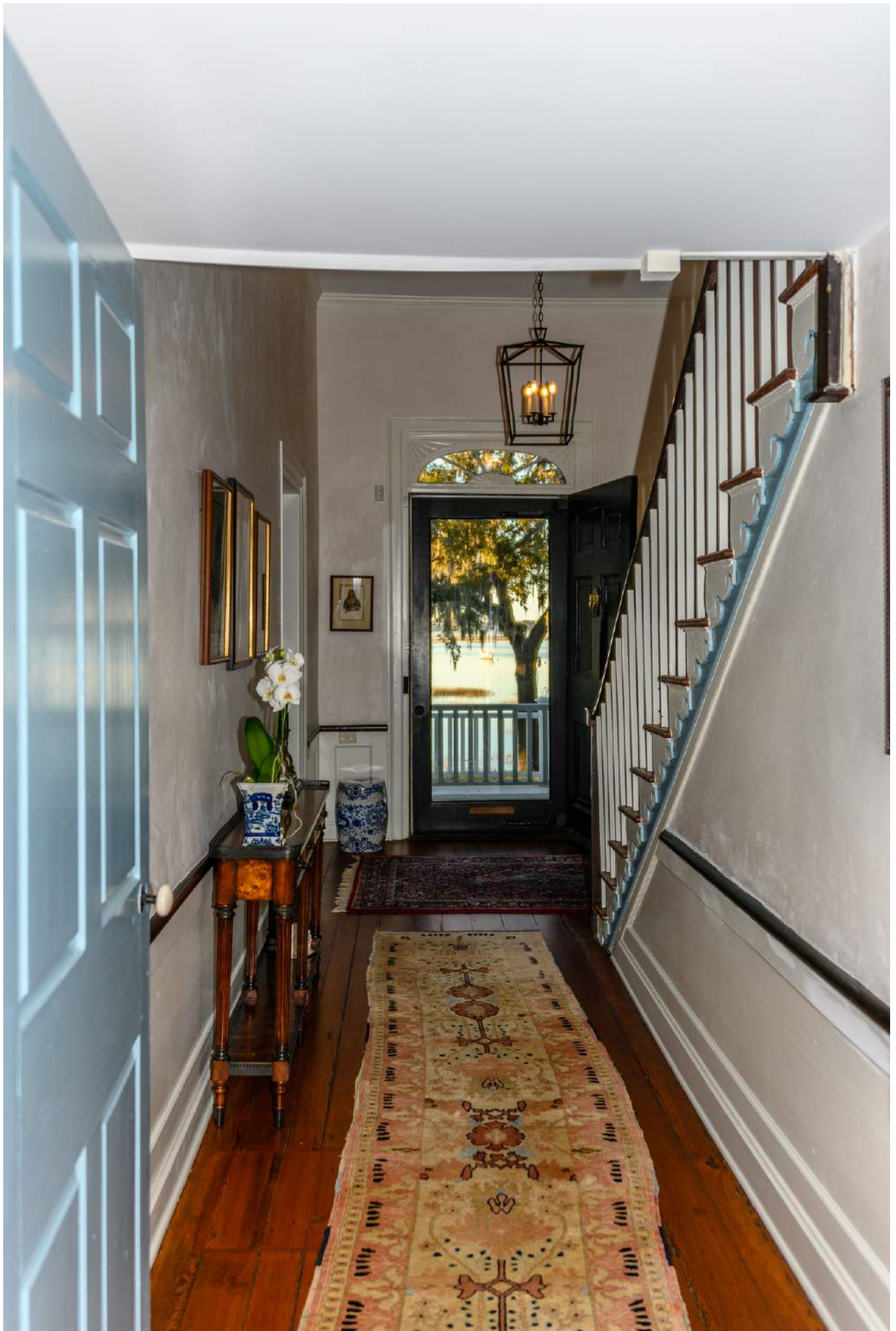








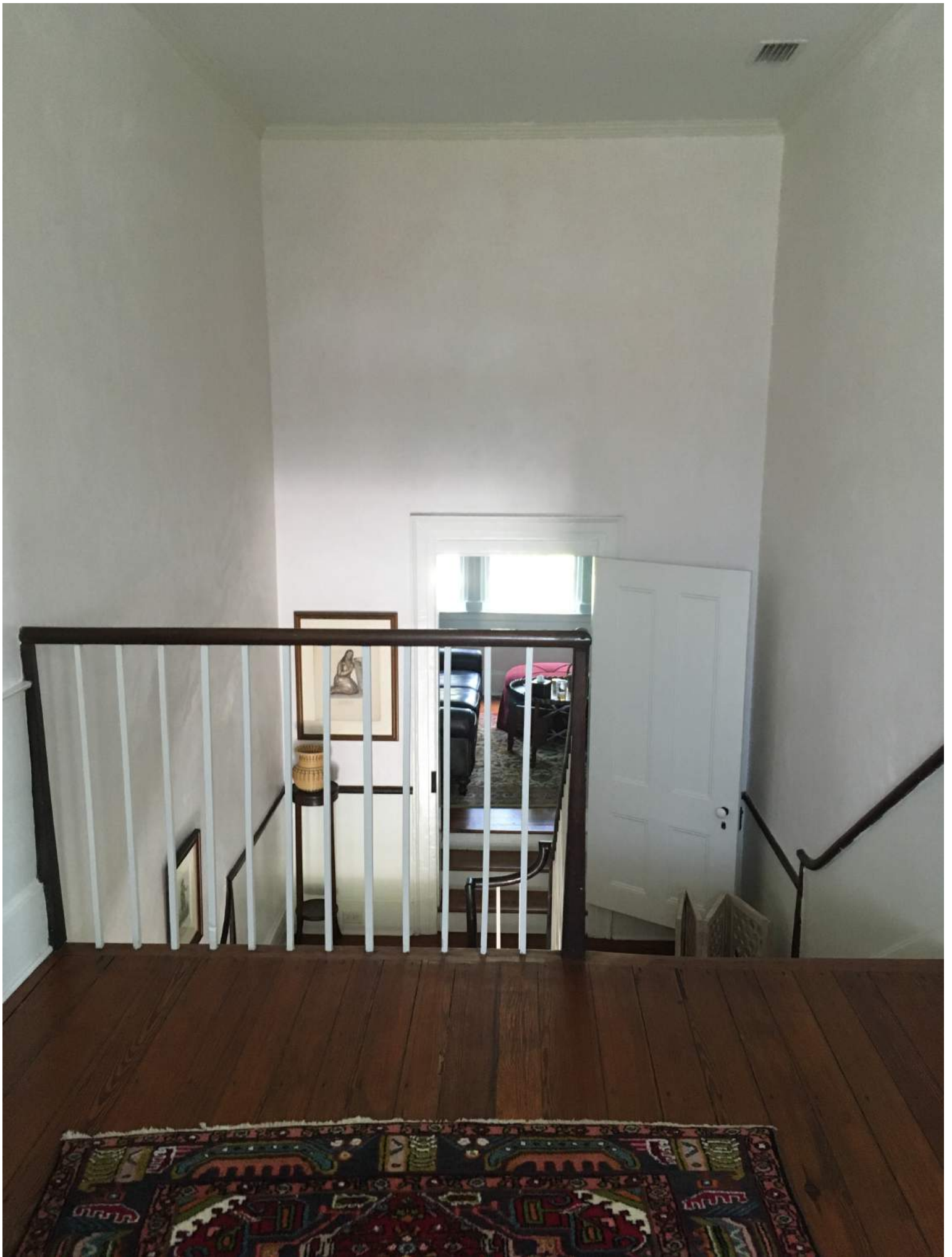




















































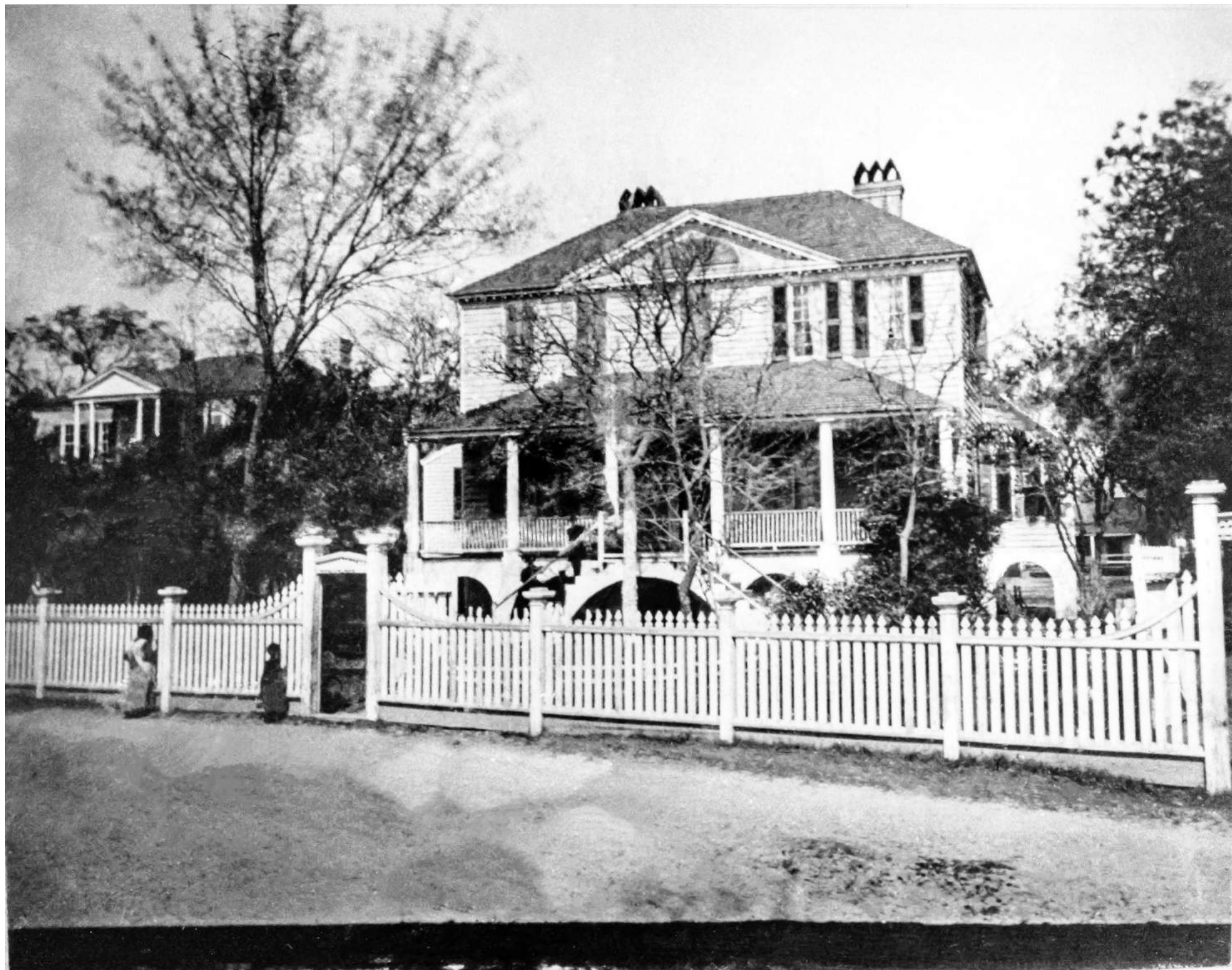










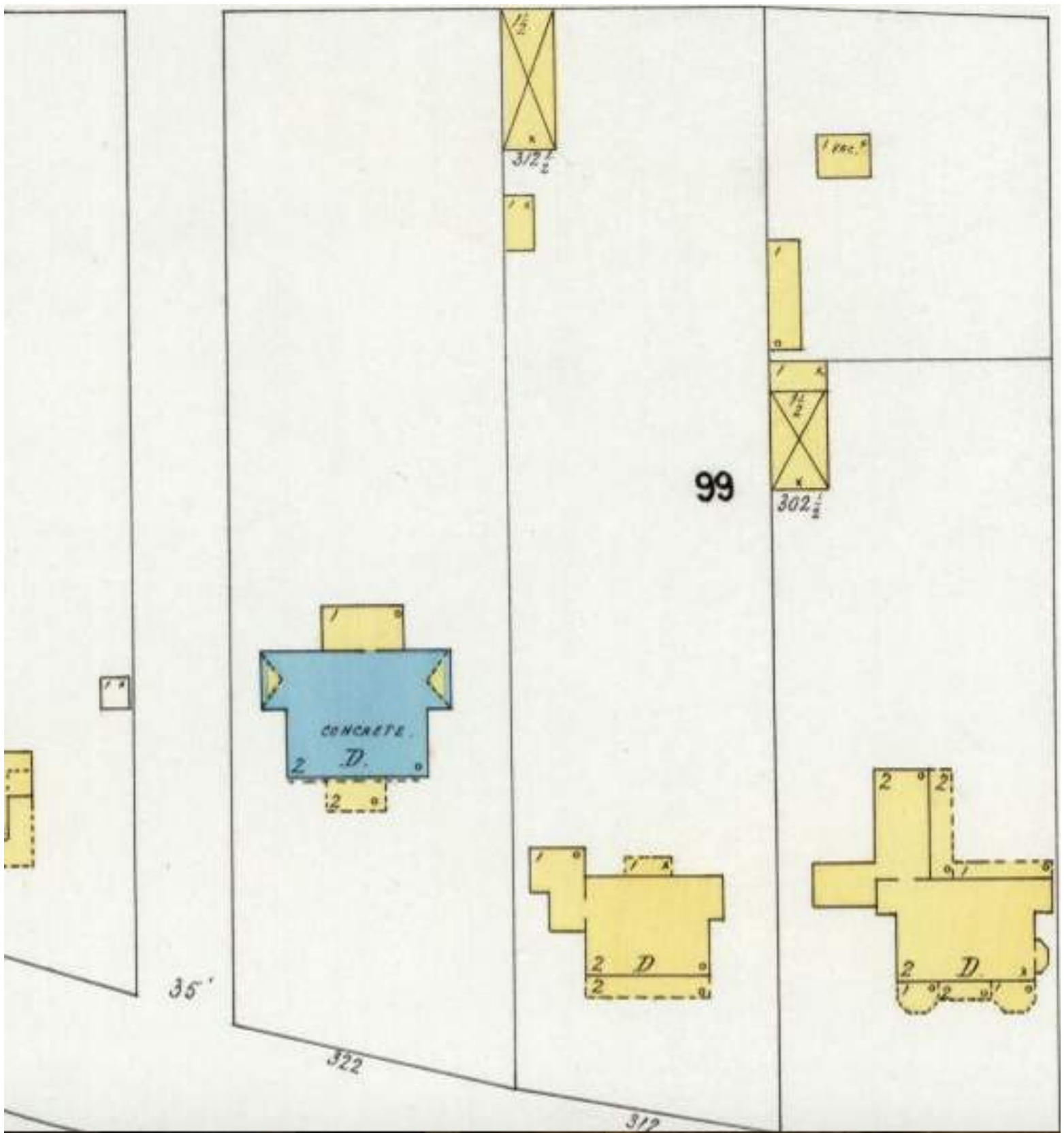




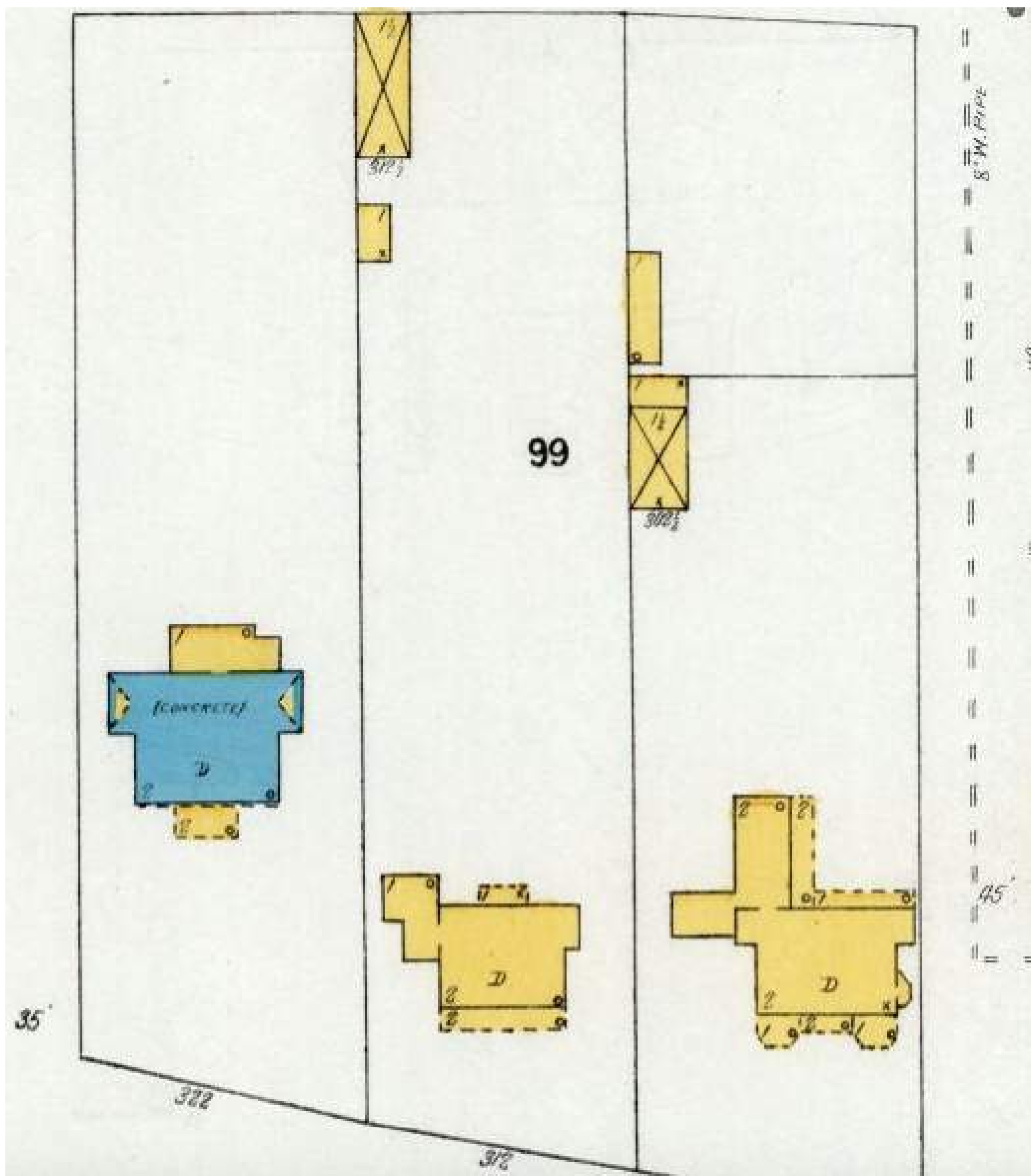


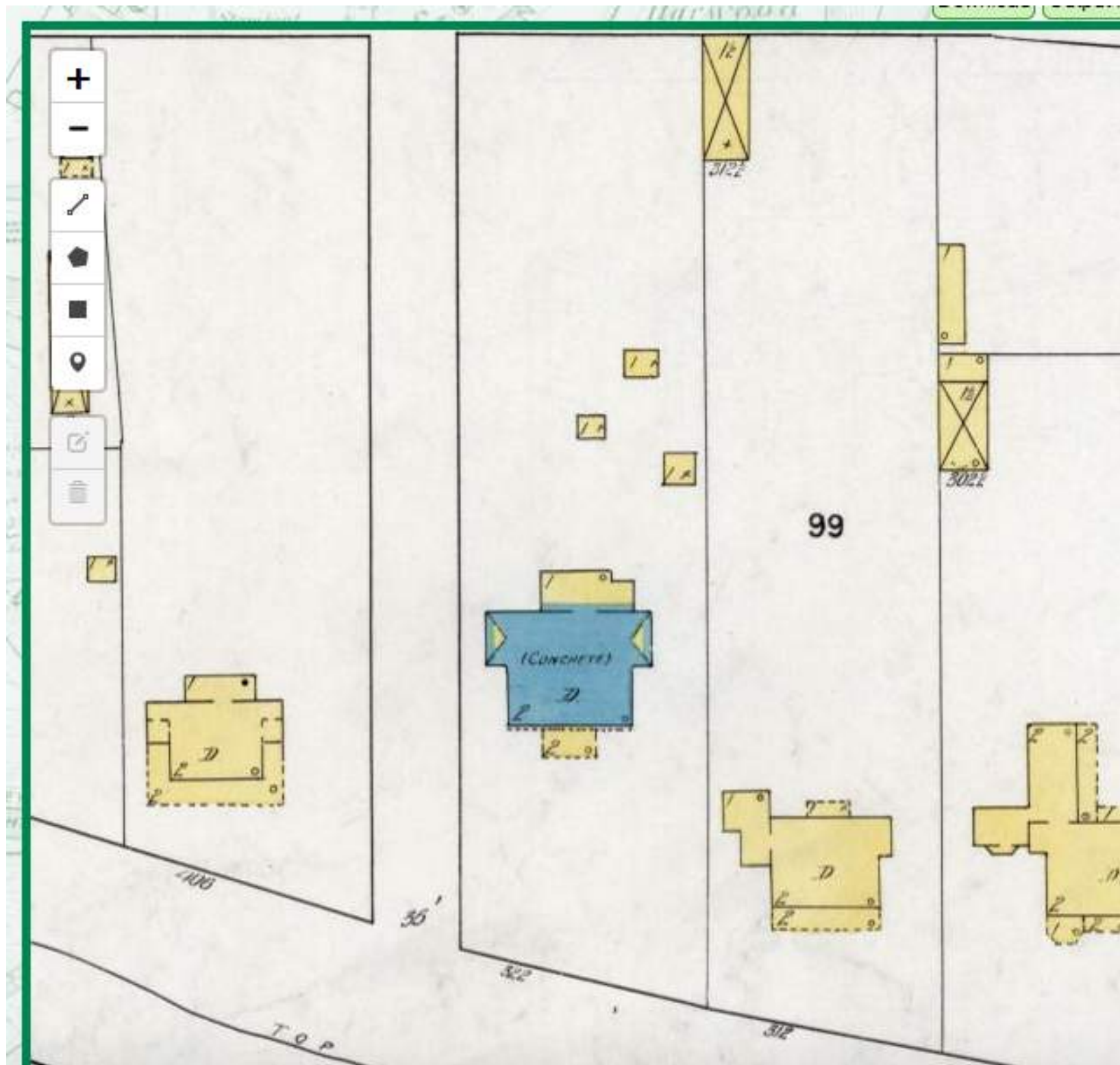












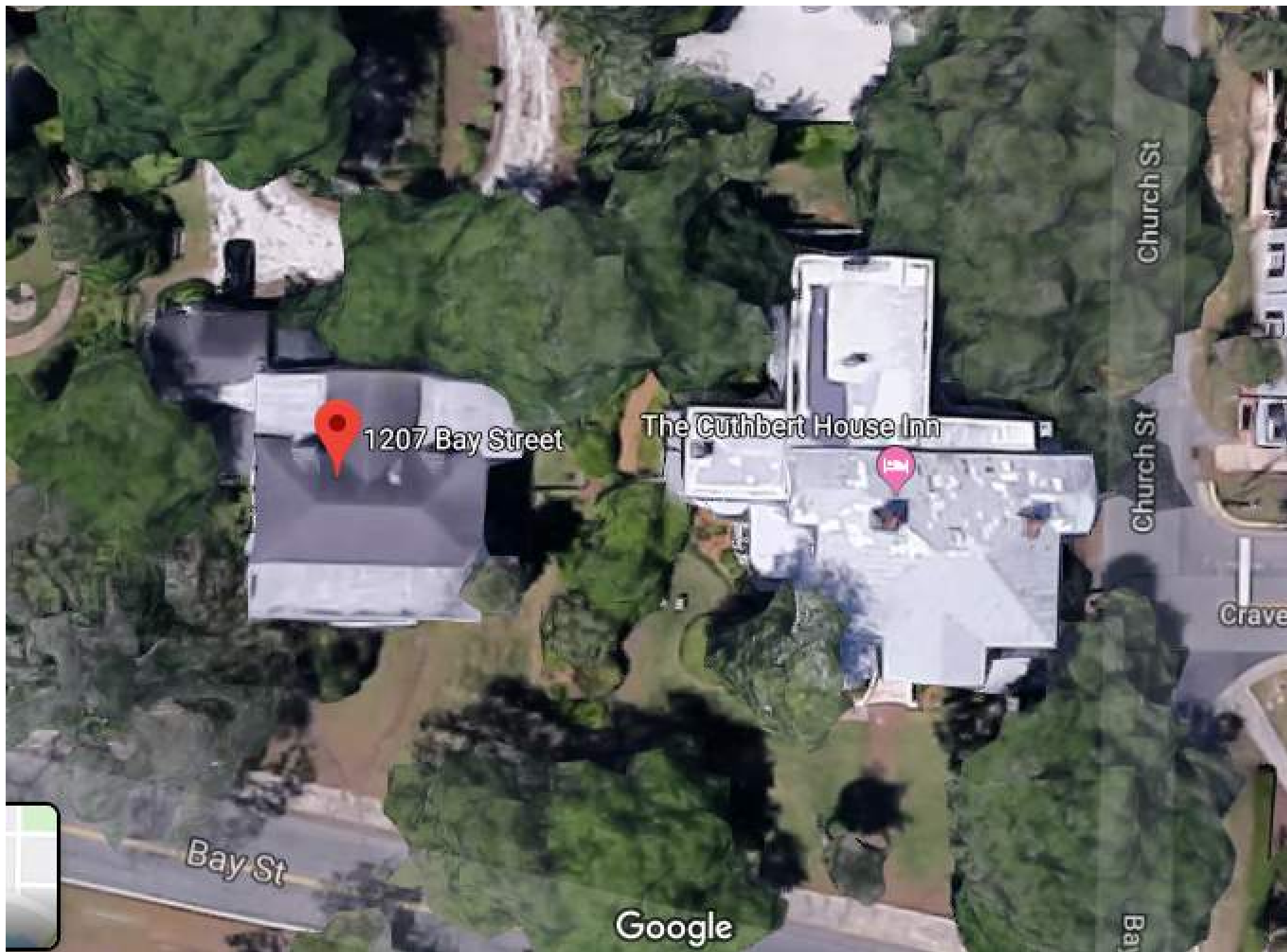






HABS No. SC-459-1













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